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The Daily Prayer Book.

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THE

DAILY PRAYER BOOK.

THE

DAILY PRAYER BOOK,

FOR THE USE OF FAMILIES,

WITH

Additional Prayers for Special Occasions.

BY VARIOUS CONTRIBUTORS.

EDITED BY

JOHN STOUGHTON, D.D.

"Every head of a household ought to be Bishop in his own house."

Augustine.

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PREFACE.

UNITED prayer is the duty and privilege of every household. When the social instincts of our nature are sanctified by the spirit of true devotion, the worship of the family becomes a blessed necessity; and to meet that deep and holy want is to enter the path of peace and joy. What enlightened reason, conscience, and affection suggest, the word of God authorizes and sanctions by example and precept. Respecting Abraham, the father of the faithful, God said: "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him." That children and a household should be taught to keep "the way of the Lord," without being taught to pray to Him, is inconceivable. It is recorded in the history of David, that when he and the multitude had lodged the ark in the place provided for it, all the people departed, every man to his house; and what was intended by this language is suggested by the words which follow—"then David returned to *bless his*

household." Eli the high-priest was remiss in domestic duty, and we know the retribution which came upon his sons and upon himself.

The language in which the Hebrew parent was bound to secure a religious education to his children is most emphatic: "These words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children; and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

There is a beautiful continuity in the devotions of Christians, especially on the Lord's-day,—which is no exceptional season of worship, but rather a typical season intended to pour its own spirit of light and love into all other days, and to make them the images and reflections of itself;—private devotion in the morning prepares for family devotion afterwards; and family devotion, in like manner at eventide, prepares for private devotion; public worship comes between,—the reservoir of morning prayer, the fountain of evening praise. We gather up and carry into the house of God, what has been previously excited in our souls, we go from strength to strength, every one in Zion appeareth before God; we bring from the public altar of worship the fire which lightens up our hearth-

stone with the illumination of a Divine fellowship, and which helps us alone, before we lie down in slumber, to pay our last tribute of adoration at the close of the holy day.

The first day of the week should lead up to God, and hallow in His service the following six; and not one morning, not one evening, should pass without leaving its memorial before Him.

In this daily service not a few need more or less of help. Happily, whatever controversies have been raised about forms of prayer in the Church, no controversy exists touching forms of prayer at home. Here, at least, most Christians are of one mind. Some heads of households do not possess the readiness of thought, the fluency of expression, and the confidence—the humble confidence—of manner, essential to a leading of the devotions of a family. To such persons, prayer-books are of essential use; and to others, who are able generally to meet the demands of duty in this line of service, prayer-books may still prove of considerable although subordinate value. They may assist when they are not alone employed. They may suggest and guide when the filling up is supplied extemporaneously; and when additional supplications and thanksgivings follow the inspiration of the printed text.

Devotional literature is rich in the present day in books of this description, but there is a growing demand for more and more. And this is the consequence of an obvious cause. Variety in family

devotion is very desirable—indeed, essential to the maintenance of real interest in its engagements: and therefore new domestic forms of worship will be sought from time to time, and the same family, if wise, will in succession use many.

Combined with the higher qualities of devotional literature, variety has been largely studied, and it is hoped successfully attained in the volume now issued, inasmuch as many hands have been employed in its production—the contributors varying in the number of their contributions from two prayers for a single day, to a series of prayers for a whole week. The compositions of the same pen however do not always follow in immediate order.

No particular chapters in the Holy Bible are indicated for reading in connection with these prayers, as the prayers are provided for only seven weeks, and no selection could be advantageously made for so short a period.

At the end of the volume will be found prayers adapted for particular occasions and seasons. They are more numerous and varied than such as are generally found in manuals of this description; and, by the insertion of forms of devotions for great religious festivals, it is hoped that members of different communions may find the volume of service to them. Thank God, we can banish sectarianism from at least one kind of worship: whether Conformists or Nonconformists, our homes are brightened or shaded by like joys and sorrows, and what-

ever opinions may be formed of certain names given to certain days, all can employ the same language in celebrating the great facts of Christian Redemption.

The prayers contributed by the late Dr. Vaughan are selected from a volume which he published not long before his death, entitled "The Daily Prayer Book": the title has, by an arrangement with the family, been retained in this volume.

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PRAYERS.

First Week.—Sunday Morning.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways; we desire to bless Thee for the repose of the past night, and to acknowledge Thy goodness in the gift of a new day. We laid ourselves down and slept; we have arisen because Thou makest us to dwell in safety. Our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our prayer unto Thee, and will look up. This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Glory be to Thee for the holy and blessed memories of the day. On the first day of the week our Lord Jesus Christ, having died for our sins, rose from the dead, and brought life and immortality to light. Having overcome the sharpness of death, He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He ascended up on high, entered within the vail, appears in Thy presence for us, and can save to the uttermost all that come unto Thee by Him. We desire to approach Thy footstool, O Lord, by that new and living way

which He hath consecrated for us by His most precious blood; that, accepted in the Beloved, we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in every time of need. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's-day. May we enter into Thy house in the multitude of Thy mercies, and so may we worship towards Thy holy temple. We are not worthy of this great privilege, for we have been disobedient and rebellious, and have grieved and offended Thy good and Holy Spirit. But, acknowledging our manifold sins and iniquities, casting ourselves on Thy fatherly compassion, pleading the blood which cleanseth from all sin, and supplicating the help of Thy grace, we would look up to the place where Thine honour dwelleth, feeling that Thy glory need not make us afraid. Proceeding from penitent and contrite hearts, may our prayer be set forth before Thee as incense; may the lifting up of our hands be as the morning and evening sacrifice of old. Grant unto each of us the blessedness of the man whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Strengthen within us every holy purpose, exalt and purify our desires and affections. May we this day be led into the green pastures and by the still waters, that our souls may be fed and solaced and refreshed. May we wait upon Thee without distraction; may the lessons of Holy Scripture come to us, not in word only, but in power; may prayer and song be acceptable to Thee, and strengthening to ourselves; and may the instructions of the preacher, accompanied by Thy rich and

effectual blessing, prove to us stimulating, edifying, and consolatory, and be productive of impressions on the conscience and the heart, which shall not be without practical results. We pray for all worshipping assemblies, commending to Thee the household of faith spread throughout all the world. Grace be with all humble and holy souls, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. May every member of this family, and all with whom we are connected by the ties of nature, or any of the relationships which connect man with man, share in the blessings of Thy Church and kingdom; and so live, this and every day, as to be prepared for the inheritance of the saints in light. May we, and all whom we love, find a place at last in the general assembly and Church of the firstborn, and be permitted to share in the holy satisfactions, and to take part in the pure and perfect worship, of the upper world. These and all other mercies we humbly beg in the name and for the sake of the Lord Jesus, to whom with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be glory and honour, dominion and praise, world without end. *Amen.*

Sunday Evening.

WE come before Thee, O Lord, at the close of Thy holy Sabbath, to offer unto Thee our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise; to give Thee

thanks for the mercies of the day, and to commit ourselves for the night to Thy gracious protection. Glory be to Thee for the day of rest and worship, for the sacred hours which have passed over us, and for all we have enjoyed during their stay, of Christian fellowship, sympathy, and communion. A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand; we had rather be doorkeepers in the house of our God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. Often in the high services of Thy Church hast Thou put joy and gladness into our hearts, more than the men of the world enjoy when their corn and their wine do most abound. Again hast Thou broken to us, by Thy ministers, Thy Spirit, and Thy word, the living and life-giving bread; we have eaten of the hidden manna; we have drank of the water from the spiritual rock; we have seen the King in His beauty, and have felt the warmth and sunlight of His love. May the sacred satisfactions of Thy house be as enduring as they are precious; may the influence of the Sabbath go with us throughout all the week; may our worldly engagements be regulated and sanctified by religious faith, so that whatever we do may be done in accordance with our sacred character as belonging to the royal priesthood of God. May no day and no duty be deemed by us common or unclean; but whether we eat or drink, buy or sell, rule or serve, may we do all to Thy glory; that all time may be hallowed by the spirit of worship, and all service become Divine. Hearken, O Lord, to the common prayer in which we have joined this day, the public and uttered

supplications of Thy people; and graciously remember, and fulfil also, the private and personal breathings of individual souls, the desires secretly poured into Thine ear, or made known by groanings that could not be uttered. Forgive the formality, levity, and thoughtlessness which may have marked the behaviour of some this day, who appeared to worship with Thy people, but whose hearts were without sympathy with them, and far from Thee. Have mercy on those who, though surrounded by the light, walk in darkness; who know not their spiritual destitution, and are unaffected by the sinfulness of sin; who are not conscious of that spiritual hunger and thirst which Thou hast promised to satisfy, and for which Thou hast so richly provided in the gospel of Thy Son. O that all who hear of the common salvation might be partakers of its blessedness, and being brought into true and living fellowship with Thy church, might be filled with joy and peace in believing, and know by experience the happiness of conformity to the holy and acceptable and perfect will of God. Happy are they who, having fellowship one with another, and with Jesus Christ their loving Lord, find in the ordinances of His church that feast which He has provided for them that are His. May the blessedness of waiting upon Thee be so felt by each of us, as often to prompt the exclamation, Lord, it is good to be here! Animated and refreshed by the duties and enjoyments of this holy day, rejoicing in Thy love and care, we would now gather ourselves together under the wing of Thy

Fatherhood, and commit ourselves to Thee, that we may be preserved from the perils and dangers of this night. The day and the night, the light and the darkness, are alike Thine. All our times are in Thy hand. We close our eyes under Thy sleepless guardianship; and when we awake we are still with Thee. So let our weeks and sabbaths be ever Thine, the days of our years all loyally devoted to Thy service; that when all means and ordinances, sabbaths and sacraments, and all the things which are made for man shall have ceased, we may enter upon that higher life for which man was made, and for which we have been redeemed. Hear us, O Lord, in heaven, Thy dwelling-place, fulfil all our prayers, receive our praise, accept and bless us, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

Monday Morning.

O LORD, Thou art good and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unt all them that call upon Thee. We thank Thee that *our* days are not passed away in Thy wrath. We are not consumed by Thine anger, but we are made glad by Thy love. Thou art gracious to us and full of compassion, our refuge in time of trouble, our strength and our song.

Help us to remember through this week the vows which we uttered yesterday, and the resolutions which we formed to keep Thy commandments. Suffer us

not to be carried away from Thee by the returning tide of our common life. May the vision of Thy glory remain with us, undimmed by the mists and clouds of unbelief and sin. Do Thou in Thy good mercy remember our prayers even when we forget them. Leave us not to ourselves : our trust is in Thee.

We thank Thee for all Thy laws as well as for all Thy promises, for Thou dost grant us strength to keep Thy commandments. It is Thy will that we should recover Thine image : may Thy will be done. Throughout the week may we be just and truthful and courteous in all our dealings with our fellow-men. May we be merciful to those who sin, knowing that Thou dost cause Thy sun to shine on the evil and the good. May we be full of pity to all who are in trouble, knowing that Thou dost heal the broken-hearted.

If any great sorrow should fall upon us, let not our faith in Thy goodness be shaken. If we require chastisement for our own sins, may we remember that whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth ; and if we suffer through the sins of others, may we take it patiently, knowing that Thou hast laid on Christ the sins of us all.

Watch over those whom we love, and keep them in Thy ways. Be with them on sea or on land ; and whether they be near to us or far away, may they all dwell in Thee.

We entreat Thee to bless all Christian people, and may they all live under the constant control of Thy great love for them, and may they be saved from the

perils which beset them in the world by their hope of eternal glory.

Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Monday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Thine is the greatness, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty. Thou art exalted above all blessing and praise. With Thine angels we bow before Thy throne, and confess that from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. All things come of Thee. Fire and hail, snow and vapours, and the stormy wind fulfil Thy word. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness; and all that is bright and fair and beautiful in the world, is the creation of Thy hand and the gift of Thy bounty. It is our blessedness to speak of Thy wondrous works, to do homage to Thy holiness, and to triumph in Thy love.

And Thou wilt listen to us, O God. Thou art very great, and we are children of the dust, but Thou dost not despise the work of Thine own hands. Though we have sinned against Thee, Thou lovest us still. Thy compassions fail not. For Christ's sake Thou wilt forgive and save us.

We thank Thee at the close of another day that we are once more in Thy presence, and that Thou dost receive us with joy, and art stretching out Thy hand to

bless us. But we are humbled when we remember our sins. We have done this day the things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone the things which we ought to have done. We confess that though we are sometimes agitated by the fear of Thine anger, and are saddened that by our wrong doings we should grieve Thee, we are strangely insensible to our guilt. We know so little of what it is to abhor that which is evil; we do not cleave with our whole heart to that which is good.

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions.

Reveal to us more fully the sorrow and desolation of heart which Christ endured because of our sins. Suffer us never to forget that He died for us, and that it is only through His blood that we receive remission of sins.

Sanctify us by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. May the baptism of fire be granted to us that the evil which is in us may be burnt and utterly consumed.

We give Thee thanks for all Thy goodness to us during the day. Thou hast defended us from many evil things by which we might have been overtaken. Thou hast granted us a thousand blessings we might have longed for in vain. Make us more grateful for all Thy love.

Now that the darkness has gathered about us, may we have quiet rest. Let no fear disturb us. Let no harm come upon us. We shall have Thee, and Thee

alone for our keeper all the night through. While we ourselves are unconscious, watch Thou at our side; and when the morning fills the world with light again, may we rise in strength and peace. For Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Tuesday Morning.

O LORD our God, whether we wake or sleep we are still with Thee. During the hours of darkness and slumber Thou hast guarded us from evil. In our moments of unconsciousness, when unable to care for ourselves, Thou hast made us Thy care. And now we awake and behold, and our sleep has been sweet unto us. Let Thy Holy Spirit be granted to us, that we may more clearly see the proofs of Thy goodness and love. Thou hast provided for our bodily wants:—Thou hast given us food and raiment, health and home. Thou hast provided for our spiritual wants:—Thou hast given us Thy holy Word with its treasures of Eternal truth,—Thy well-beloved Son, whose atoning sacrifice and perfect life redeem us from sin, and reveal Thine heart,—and Thy Holy Spirit, who cleanses us from evil, and shows to us the glory of Christ. We are surrounded by objects that minister to our thought and strengthen our minds, and by friends that cheer and gladden our hearts. O help us to see Thy hand in all, and to praise Thee with joyful lips. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless His holy name.

O Lord our God, we know that in all the mercies which Thou hast bestowed upon us, and especially in the gift of Thy dear Son, Thou dost seek to draw us away from self and sin to holiness and to Thee. Grant us, then, Thy Spirit, that this Thy purpose may be accomplished in us. May Thy goodness subdue our pride and self-will, and bring us into subjection to Thy perfect will. May our hearts be wholly renewed, and become the sources of pure thoughts and determinations, of devout affections and desires. Let the same mind be in us as was also in Christ Jesus. May we love Thee with a love so strong, that it may be our meat, even as it was His, to do Thy will,—our supreme joy to be one with Thee. May we hunger and thirst after righteousness, and be filled. May we walk in the truth, and may integrity and uprightness preserve us. May we be willing to deny self that we may serve others. May love run through both our actions and our words, and may we be gentle and patient to all men.

Most merciful Father, we commend to Thee all that belong to this household, and all our relatives and friends. Let them covet Thy favour above earthly good, and aspire after conformity to the image of Thy Son. Let them not be drawn aside from the path of holiness by the snares that beset them, but let them stedfastly cleave to Thee.

We pray Thee to bless all the family of mankind. Bring into Thy fold the Jew with the fulness of the Gentiles. Let the ignorance and vice, the cruelty and

oppression which darken the world, give place to light and purity and love. Let war cease to the end of the earth. Let the Prince of Peace reign in all hearts and over all nations.

Most gracious God, assist us this day in the duties of our calling. Go forth with us in our work and our labour until the evening. Give us the strength and the wisdom we need. Preserve us from the sins into which we are liable to fall; and grant that when the night comes we may end the day with Thee, even as now with Thee we seek to begin it. Grant us these mercies, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Tuesday Evening.

O LORD God Almighty, the day is Thine, the night also is Thine. We thank Thee for both. Thou hast permitted us to spend another day in activity and work. Another night now invites us to rest. We bless Thee that through the day we have enjoyed Thy guidance, for Thou dost not leave us without instruction. Thou hast given us Thy Word as the rule of life, and Thou hast taught us that in all our actions we may execute Thy will and show forth Thy glory. We rejoice that the labour and the pleasure which fall to our lot are both of Thine appointment, and may be so used as to minister to our highest advantage. We bless Thee that Thou makest the events of our personal history, and the circumstances by

which we are surrounded, the means of spiritual training and of preparation for our heavenly home. We thank Thee that all things work together for our good if we only love Thee, and are the called according to Thy purpose. We earnestly pray that the various influences which affect us may contribute to this end; but we would also ask that we may not passively yield ourselves to be moulded by them, but may actively and diligently strive together with Thee to render them effectual in attaining the object which Thou dost intend. May we follow the directions which Thou hast given, and use the means which Thou hast placed at our command, that so we may reach the exalted purity and blessedness which Thou hast set before us.

O Lord, our God, we humbly pray that as Thou hast deigned to give us Thy Word as our guide, we may be kept from the sin of neglecting it. May we carefully study it, may we diligently inquire into its meaning, and may we not be satisfied until we have sought out its hidden treasure. May our hearts be not only enlightened but purified by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may thus be brought into sympathy with its sacred truths, and be fitted to apprehend them. May we delight in the great things which it reveals, as those who have found much spoil. May we, as we patiently continue our search, gain a deeper insight into its mysteries, discern the richness and amplitude of its discoveries, and see Thee in it everywhere. May we find it profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that we may be

throughly furnished to every good word and work. May it suggest to us holy thoughts, may it strengthen in us holy resolution, may it inspire us with holy joy. We pray also that we may have grace to carry into practice all that it teaches us. May we prove its worth by the elevation and happiness it brings to us when obeyed. May we find that the more faithfully we do Thy will, the more fully we know Thy doctrine, and the more firmly we are established in obedience to Thee.

If, Father, during the day that is ending, we have disobeyed or forgotten Thy commands, O forgive the sins of Thy servants, for the Saviour's sake, and call us back to the remembrance of Thy law. Henceforth may Thy truth dwell in us richly. Order our steps in Thy Word.

Heavenly Father, we bless Thee that Thou art drawing around us the shades of night, and providing for our quiet repose. O breathe on us an evening blessing before we lie down to rest. May we and all we love enjoy Thy guardian care and be refreshed by peaceful slumber. May our first waking thoughts in the morning be thoughts of Thee, and may our recruited strength be employed in Thy service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

Wednesday Morning.

OMNISCIENT FATHER, from Thee nothing is concealed. Our lives, with all the folly and sin included in them, Thou knowest. In the memory of this truth we should not dare to lift up our eyes towards Thee, if Thou hadst not done so much to assure us of Thy goodness, Thy mercy, Thy graciousness. Truly Thou art God, and not man, and therefore we have hope. Help us to remember that the life of Thy children is to be as a light shining abroad —is to be seen and known. Help us ever to remember that secret sins must soon cease to be secret. May this thought be always with us, and serve to keep us from evil. May we be faithful to the favour Thou hast shown us, that we may rise to more. May we not be numbered with those who lose all by being negligent of what they have received.

We thank Thee, Heavenly Father, for all the teaching of Jesus Christ concerning the nature of Thy kingdom—the nature of Thy rule over the souls of men. Truly Thou dost cause the seeds of Thy truth to be dropped into men's souls in many ways. Often, too, does it seem as if dropped there in vain. But we know, O Lord, that while the husbandman sleeps Thou sleepest not. It is with Thee to cause Thy word to grow, man knoweth not how.

We have been neglectful of Thy ways. Convince us, O Lord, more fully of the evil of sin. May we dread its subtlety, its deceitfulness, its power, and be ever

disposed to look to Thee for deliverance from it. If our conscience charge us with having sinned against Thee, may we not attempt to cover our sin. May we have grace to confess it, and strength to depart from it. Who is a God like unto Thee, pardoning iniquity, transgression, and sin—delighting in mercy? May we, therefore, in all our struggles with evil, be able to look to Thee for strength. Under a sense of guilt may we be inclined to look to Thee for mercy, and for those gracious influences that shall bind us more effectually to Thy service.

Nor while Thou rulest, O Lord, would we despair for Thy Church. Thou canst build the walls of Jerusalem when the time, the set time, to favour Zion has come. Thou canst make troublous times to be times of strong faith, and of fervent zeal, on the part of those who truly serve Thee. Instrumentalities despised, and given up by the world, Thou canst make mighty for Thy purposes. Ever guard Thy Church, O Lord; ever be gracious to Thy people. Be favourable to our own land, we beseech Thee, the place of our fathers' sepulchres. Bless us, and make our influence a blessing everywhere, and in all things.

May we not be overtaken with any fault this day. May we set a guard upon our lips that we sin not with our tongue. May our hearts be right, and all we do be acceptable to Thee. All which we pray for we seek through the merits of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening.

WE thank Thee, heavenly Father, for the instruction in Holy Scripture concerning our duties in families and households. May children be mindful of the injunctions there addressed to them. May they see that to be obedient to parents is simply to conform themselves to what is in itself right. May they remember the promise made to those who honour father and mother. May parents also be considerate, wise, and affectionate in their dealing with their children. May they remember their obligation to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Forbid that they should delegate this work wholly to others. In this grave matter may they be the educators of those whom Thou hast committed to their care and love.

May servants, likewise, see clearly the duties they owe to those whom they profess to serve. May they know how to do their duty faithfully though the eyes of the heads of the household be not upon them. May their service be something better than such eye-service. May it proceed from singleness of heart, as if done unto Christ. May they remember that if other eyes are away, Thine eye is upon them, and so may all they do be with pure intention, as to Thee, and not unto men. May they feel assured that as they sow they will reap—that if it is to be well with them they must do well.

May masters also be towards their servants as they

would their servants should be towards them. May they avoid harshness, forbear threatening, knowing that they have a Master in heaven, and one who is no respecter of persons.

May we all feel that if we would be faithful in such relations, or in any relations, it behoves us to watch and guard against the selfishness of our nature. Assist us, O Lord, to this end, to put on the armour Thou hast provided. We would remember that the resistances we have to subdue are not such merely as are tempting to flesh and blood, but such as aim to corrupt the thoughts and affections. May we have grace, therefore, to take to ourselves the whole armour of God, and be prepared to wrestle, to endure agony, if needs be, so that we may but prevail in the evil day.

For this, O Lord, we lean, not on our own wisdom, or on our own strength. We pour out our hearts to Thee, beseeching Thee to be our teacher and helper, that so we may conquer. Save us from the sins most easily besetting us; and may we ever feel that we are by no means secure as to the sins to which we are the least liable. In Thy hand only are we safe.

Once more the night cometh. May it still be day with our souls. Give us a sense of Thy pardoning mercy, and grant us the further supplies of grace we need. We beseech it for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

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Thursday Morning.

O LORD, Thou hast searched us and known us. Thou compassest our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways. Whither shall we go from Thy Spirit, or whither shall we flee from Thy presence? If we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead us, and Thy right hand uphold us. Thou hast been with us during the hours of slumber, and hast been watching over us for our safety and peace. Thou hast withdrawn the curtains of darkness, and art again pouring light upon the earth. Everywhere we see, O Lord, Thy power and wisdom, Thy majesty and greatness, Thy bounty and love. The mystery of Thine omnipresence we cannot comprehend; but the assurance of Thy word, that Thou art with us by day and by night, we desire to receive into our hearts; cause us to feel and to act in accordance with its truth. O heavenly Father, impress it deeply upon our minds. Raise us above the things which are seen, and make us to endure as seeing Thee who art invisible. Thou didst open the eyes of Thy servant in ancient time, and didst give him to see that the mount on which he stood was surrounded with chariots of fire and horses of fire: open our eyes, we entreat Thee, that we may discern our spiritual circumstances, and behold the tokens of Thine encompassing providence and grace. To Thee we can come and speak in every time of

trouble. In company or alone, at home or abroad, in our devotions and in our business, we are ever near Thee. Should temptation or distress, bereavement or sickness, disappointment or fear overtake us this day and make us sad, we know that the light and consolation of Thy love will still be left. Amidst all the probabilities of our mortal life, we can behold Thee, filling all our future, as Thou hast filled all our past history. We bless Thee for all human sympathy and help; and we desire ever to see in them the ministers and reflections of Thine own providence; but may we constantly feel that there is no friend, no protector, no patron, like Thyself,—that give what Thou wilt, without Thee we are poor; and with Thee rich, take what Thou wilt away. May the thought of Thy presence, Almighty Lord, be a check on our heart when tempted to sin. Help us to remember in the hour of spiritual peril that Thou God seest us: that the eye of the Omniscient discovers every offence we can commit, and any purpose we can conceive; and that what we do, Thou wilt not forget. O Holy Father, keep us, through this awful conviction, from all sin. Wherever we go, followed by the enemy of our souls, surrounded by evil men, influenced by provoking occurrences, or coming within the reach of worldly fascinations, do Thou keep us, uphold us, and deliver us. Suffer us not to fall. When we are weakest, be Thou nearest. When we are most blind, touch Thou our eyes; when our ills are most obstinate, do Thou subdue them; when our temper is most wayward, do

Thou dispose us to curb and control it. We are going forth into the world again; lead us by the hand, cover us with Thy wing every moment. How many ask our prayers. How many more need them. Listen to us on behalf of those who request our intercessions, and fill them with light and peace, with love and joy. May they confide in the great Mediator and Advocate. Bless our beloved family, our children and servants. Make us all one in Christ, and unite us in those holy sympathies which death cannot dissolve. Have pity upon the poor, the afflicted, the dying.

We ask all these mercies, with the pardon of all our sins, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Thursday Evening.

O LORD, our gracious Father, once more in the multitude of Thy tender mercies we are permitted to bow at Thy footstool. We come to Thee wearied with the cares and toils of another day. We have been in the world, amidst its sins and temptations, its snares and follies, its business and its enjoyments. If we have thereby contracted a stain on our consciences, and received a fresh taint of evil on our hearts, we confess it has been through our own carelessness and want of dependence upon Thee. If we have been kept from yielding to the enemy of our souls, and can kneel down before Thee now with the grateful remembrance of conquered sin, with the joy

of a victory which overcometh the world, we are sure it is through the presence and grace of Thy most Holy Spirit; it is because Thou hast wrought within us the work of faith with power. O Lord, we can do nothing without Thee, and without Christ. As the branch cannot bear fruit, except it abide in the vine, so neither can we, except we abide in Him. Write these words of the blessed Jesus upon all our hearts. Save us from self-dependence, from spiritual pride, from the folly of trusting our own hearts. Teach us humility. Make us child-like, keep alive in us the spirit of a holy reliance upon Thy promises.

Worldliness is our curse; make it, O Lord, our sorrow. May we mourn over it more and more, and do Thou graciously help us to rise above it. Give us spirituality of mind. Dispose us to set our affections upon those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Hear our oft-repeated prayer, that whilst we are in the world, we may not be of it. May we never feel, amidst the most peaceful scenes of human life, that this is our rest. May we never say to the most precious things we have on earth, Ye are our gods. Lift us up to Thyself. Draw forth our affections after Thee. Lord, give a spiritual mind to our children, our servants, our friends, our acquaintance. Baptize them with the Holy Ghost. Make them all new creatures in Christ Jesus. Write Thy law upon their hearts. Incline them to love, honour, and serve Thee. Thou knowest the pitfalls around them, and the treachery of their hearts; O preserve them by Thy

sovereign grace, and bring them, with us, to Thy heavenly kingdom.

We pray for our country. Lord, remember England with all its possessions and dependencies, its interests and prospects, its obligations and responsibilities. Bless our beloved Queen, and guide those who have the direction of State affairs. In all common, in all critical seasons, be Thou our protection and guide, our shield and salvation. Prosper all wise efforts made for the instruction and improvement of the people. May the ignorant be educated, and the poor be provided for, and the rich be made humble and charitable. Heal the sick. Comfort the distressed. Be with the dying. Defend the prosperous from the perils which surround them; and gather all men, whatever their circumstances may be, into Thy holy Church.

Lord, accept our thanks for this day's mercies. Hear our prayer for the pardon of this day's sins, and write upon our souls to-night the lessons of wisdom taught by this day's providence and discipline. All we ask is for Jesus' sake.

Friday Morning.

O GOD our Father, Thou art the fountain of life and the source of blessing to all Thy creatures. Thou Thyself art the blessed God, and knowest no change, nor weakness, nor sorrow; but Thy chief

blessedness is Thy love. Thou delightest in the dependence of Thy creatures, that Thou mayest supply their need. Thou hast pity upon the sinful, and delightest in mercy. Thou dost crave the love of those whom Thou hast made capable of loving. We come to Thee, not loving Thee as we ought, but loving Thee so that we sorrow for our ingratitude and sin, and yearn to love Thee more. And we come to Thee that we may be quickened by Thy love to warmer and holier affections; that we may receive life out of the fulness of Thy life. May we feel Thee near to us in the kindling of holy affections; in the springing up of holiness and faith, of sympathy and joy. Draw out our best affections in response to Thy love. We cannot by searching find out Thee, but we can rest in Thee as infinite in wisdom, power, and love; and we can have joy in feeling that purity, reverence, and joy are made strong within us. We lay bare before Thee the very thoughts of our hearts; we submit to Thee every power of our wills; we yield to Thee all the love and worship of our affections. We are glad because Thou dost regard us. We are honoured by Thy providence. We are blessed in Thy grace. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and for all the blessings of this life; but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Thou hast permitted us to arise from our beds, and in health and peace with mutual love to greet each

other, and to offer this our morning sacrifice to Thee. We go forth to meet the varied experiences of another day, and it is our assurance and joy that what is unknown to us is known to Thee. Our life is in Thy sight. Thou guidest us, though we do not know Thee. Thou seest the end from the beginning. We walk blindly,—ignorant even of our very next footsteps; but Thou canst prepare us, by ministries of strengthening grace, for even the greatest demand upon our fidelity or our faith. May we ever seek the grace that shall prepare us for all things. May Thy word dwell in us richly. Blessed be Thy name for the high and holy truths which we have read; which fall upon our thoughts and hearts while yet fresh and unoccupied. May they lift and sanctify us. Reverently received, may they be carefully treasured as our directory and strength for the day. Blessed be Thy name for all the Divine wisdom and salvation that has come to us through Jesus the Saviour of our souls—the bread of our life. We thank Thee for His incarnation and death; especially for His human life and experiences; His growth in wisdom and in knowledge, and in favour both with God and man; His endurance of temptation, and the weakness which needed an angel to strengthen Him; His daily duty and holy fidelity; His nightly prayers and unresting benevolence; His craving for human sympathy in His passion; His prayer that if possible His cup might pass; His breaking down under His cross; His cry of desolation upon His cross. For all that made Him a man of sorrows; that perfected His sympathy

with us in our sorrows, we thank Thee; and for the triumph of His death; the victory of His resurrection; the glory of His ascension; and for the gift to Him of all power in heaven and on earth, so that we may triumph through His strength and partake of His fulness. May we rejoice in infirmities, in afflictions, in persecutions for His sake, and so suffer with Him that we may reign with Him. We ask it for His glorious name's sake. *Amen.*

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Friday Evening.

O THOU who art the life of all who live, the Father of mercies, the giver and upholder of all things, Thou hast guided us through the changes of the day, and out of the fulness of Thy hand hast satisfied all our desire. Our cup runneth over, yet still Thy bounty poureth on. Thou doest for us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. Help us to acknowledge with grateful joy all Thy goodness. We feel how unworthy we have been—as the imperfect use of these very mercies has shown us. Forgive us all our sin, whether of transgression, unthankfulness, or forgetfulness. It may be that we have had some thoughts of Thee, that the holy Saviour has walked with us to-day, speaking to us words of light and life; and yet our unspiritual thoughts, our unbelieving hearts, have holden our eyes so that we have not seen Him, even though His words made our hearts burn

within us. O blessed Saviour, help us to entreat and constrain Thee that Thou wouldest abide with us now that it is toward evening; that in the quiet communion of this evening hour we may know Thee in Thy acts of blessing, and be filled with the joy of Thy resurrection. Or it may be that we have passed through the day in darkness or fear, craving the light and comfort of Thy presence, but not realizing it. Do Thou now be merciful to our unbelief, and in this evening hour stand in our midst, and say, "Peace be to you," that our darkness and sorrows may flee away, and that we, Thy disciples, may be glad because we see the Lord. O Lord, Thy presence is the joy and the life of our life; do Thou pour its light into our souls, that they may know no gathering twilight or darkened hours. Thou knowest our frame, and rememberest that we are dust. Thou dost not despise our sorrows; Thy greatness is so great, because it stoops to the cares and necessities of our little lives. Thou givest light in our darkness, strength in our weakness; and when storms agitate our little barque, Thou dost come to us walking on the waters, and say, "Peace, be still," and presently there is a great calm. We rest from the toiling hand: oh give us rest from anxious hearts; may we believe in the watchful love of the Providence that folds the flowers, and hushes to rest the birds of the air, and gives sleep to every living thing. If our hearts have been wounded by sin, by sorrow, or by disappointment, help us to come to Thee, the helper of all who are cast down. Cleanse our

hearts from evil, discharge our minds from care, help us to bind our souls with the watcher's girdle, that while our wearied frame rests we may be as those who wait for their God. Another day has been added to our time; another stage of our pilgrimage of life has been completed. May we realize in it an additional grace and sanctity, an added meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. And when our last day's work shall be done, and the evening of life gathers upon us,—then, as now, may there be light and rest in our souls. We ask it for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

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Saturday Morning.

ALMIGHTY God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech Thee to look down on us at this time and grant us Thy richest blessing. Let the pitifulness of Thy great mercy forgive our sins, and the renewing grace of Thine Holy Spirit restore and sanctify our souls. Though we have deserved nothing at Thine hand, yet Thy promise emboldens us to expect that through Jesus Christ our Lord, Thou wilt freely give us all things. O fulfil in us Thy gracious word; do exceeding abundantly for us above all we ask or think.

Grant us, O Lord, we pray Thee, to know ourselves. Show us where we are weak and inclined to do evil, that we may there be always on our guard. Let us not, through forgetfulness of our infirmity, be surprised

by sudden temptation, or led astray by the deceitful allurements of the world, or yield to the sin that doth so easily beset us; but let us watch and pray, that so the enemy may not prevail through our weakness, but be vanquished through Thy strength.

But whilst we see our feebleness, grant, O Lord, that we may not, on the other hand, be unmindful of the powers with which Thou hast endowed us, and which Thou requirest us to employ for Thee. May we remember that Thou holdest us responsible for their use and improvement, and that Thou wilt demand an account of our stewardship at last. O may we clearly see what are the duties for which Thou hast qualified us, and perform them with all our heart. May we feel thankful that we can accomplish anything in Thy cause, and conscientiously ask how we can serve Thee best. Forbid that we should hide our talent or use it negligently. May we dedicate it wholly to Thee, and by diligence and thoughtfulness in our work find the promise fulfilled, "To him that hath shall be given, and he shall have more abundantly."

We know, O Lord, that we have nothing which we have not received; that when we have done all, we are but unprofitable servants. We would trace our successes to Thy grace, and say, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name, be all the glory." O help us more habitually to contemplate that gracious Saviour from whom all our good comes. May we not be satisfied with beholding Him afar off, but may we enjoy close and confiding communion

with Him. May we know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death, if by any means we may attain unto the resurrection of the dead. May we resort to Him in every danger and every trial, assured that He will strengthen and comfort us. May we prize His friendship as the joy and glory of our life. May we abide in Him, that we may bring forth much fruit. And at last, may we with unwavering faith commend our spirit into His hands and live with Him for ever.

O Lord our God, we thank Thee that Thou hast brought us to the last day in another week. How great has been Thy goodness towards us. Thy promise has not failed us; Thy grace has been sufficient for us; hitherto Thou hast helped us. We thank Thee that we can discern Thy providential care in our safety and well-being, and the work of Thy Spirit in our desire still to honour and obey Thee. Thou hast been with us waking and sleeping, at home and abroad, and Thou hast suffered us to want no good thing. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. O let us through this day still enjoy Thy guidance and blessing. Help us so successfully to complete the work of the week, that we may cast aside all worldly care, and be able to enter, with undistracted mind, on the duties and privileges of Thy holy day.

Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son. *Amen.*

Saturday Evening.

O LORD, by whose care we have been preserved through another week, we lift up our heart to Thee. O let Thy Holy Spirit now inspire us with grateful love, as we review Thy goodness towards us. Thou hast never lost sight of us for a moment. Thou hast held our soul in life, and suffered not our foot to be moved. When we have been absorbed in the duties of our calling, and unaware of the danger that threatened us, or lost in the oblivion of sleep and unable to protect ourselves, Thine eye has rested on us, and Thine hand has defended us. When we have forgotten our need of vigilance, and have felt no apprehension of the tempter's power, Thou hast called us back to thought and watchfulness, or hast Thyself become our shield. Thou hast not only encouraged our hearts by Thine exceeding great and precious promises, but Thou hast fulfilled those promises in our experience. Thou hast made all grace to abound to us; as our day, our strength has been. Oh how great is Thy goodness which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee, which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee, before the sons of men!

And now, O Lord, we beseech Thee to prepare us for the approaching day of rest. Let the agitation and excitement which arise out of the business of the week subside, and our minds become tranquil and self-possessed, ready to give their undisturbed attention to spiritual things. Help us to turn away our

thoughts from worldly pursuits, to cast off all anxiety and care, and to yield our hearts to the peace-giving influence of Thy Spirit. May our souls be filled with holy desires, and anticipate with joy the services in which those desires shall be satisfied. May deep and fervent love to Christ prepare us for happy and profitable communion with Him, and render the morrow one of the days of heaven upon earth.

O Lord, we pray that Thy blessing may be with all the ministers of Thy gospel who are looking forward with anxious minds to their momentous duties. Prepare them for their work. Grant that they may joyfully declare what they have themselves felt and tasted and handled of the good word of life. Fill their hearts with love to Christ and love to souls. Impress them with a deep sense of their responsibility. May they feel their own personal insufficiency, and humbly acknowledge that their sufficiency is of Thee; yet, trusting in the help of Thy promised Spirit, may they find that utterance is given to them, and that they open their mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel. May they warn every man, and teach every man in all wisdom, that they may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. And O that, by Thy blessing on their work, Thy people may be comforted and edified, and many who have been living without Christ be led to Him in humble faith, and find in Him everlasting life.

Assist all those who shall be engaged in other departments of Christian service; in relieving the

poor, soothing the afflicted, teaching the ignorant, or guiding the young and inexperienced ; grant them the wisdom, the tenderness, the simplicity, the patience, which they need, and encourage them by the assurance that their labours will not be in vain in the Lord.

And now we commend ourselves and our household to Thy gracious care. Give us the blessed sense of Thy presence and Thy love. Grant us to enter into Thy holy rest. May our sleep this night be calm and sweet, and may we awake with the quiet of the Sabbath already in our hearts. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Second Week.—Sunday Morning.

MOST holy and most merciful God : clouds and darkness were round about Thee, and left to themselves, Thy erring and sinful children could never have found their way home to their Father and their God. But Thou hast revealed Thy glory to us. The true light now shineth.

We give Thee hearty thanks that in Thine infinite goodness Thou hast so ordered it that on this day we are released from common work and common care, that we may spend hour after hour with Thee. Thou art near to us at all times and in all places; but on this day we are free to hold more intimate communion with Thee, and to rejoice with a fuller and more fervent joy in Thy love. May Thy Spirit rest upon us, purify-

ing our vision that we may see Thy face; inspiring us with perfect faith in Thy mercy, and with devout reverence for Thy bright and glorious perfections.

Blessed, O God, are Thy saints and angels in heaven who worship Thee day and night without ceasing; but for us too there is fulness of joy in Thy presence. Manifest Thyself to us when we meet with Thy Church to show forth Thy praise and to be taught Thy will; and manifest Thyself to us in our hours of private meditation and prayer.

Thou hast done great things for us on this day of rest in years which are gone by; we beseech Thee to bless us bountifully to-day. May we be taught of Thee. May we be strengthened with Thy might. May we receive Thy peace.

And be very gracious to all whom we love. May all those with whom we worship be filled with the Holy Ghost. Reveal to the impenitent their own sin and Thy great mercy. Console all who are in sorrow. Give courage and hope to the depressed. Have pity upon any who during the week have been betrayed into grievous sin. May they find redemption through the blood of Christ, even the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of Thy grace.

May all Christian men and women who shall endeavour this day to win the love of others for Thyself, all who shall teach children and young men and women, all who shall in any way try to lighten the miseries of mankind, instruct their ignorance and rescue them from eternal death,—do their work with zeal and

earnestness, and rejoice that whether they succeed or fail Thy heart is with them.

We give Thee thanks for all Thy goodness to us, and desire to keep all Thy commandments. May Thy grace, mercy, and peace be with us, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Sunday Evening.

ALMIGHTY God, we come to Thee once more before this day of rest has quite gone by, to receive Thy benediction. We become weary even of worshipping Thee: but Thou art never weary of blessing us. Not yet is Thy love exhausted. Thou hast listened already to the prayers of millions of Thy children; Thou wilt listen to ours, and wilt reveal to us Thy lovingkindness and Thy grace.

We give Thee thanks for the great and noble works which Thy hand has wrought since the morning. Thou hast forgiven the sins of many who never received forgiveness before: we bless Thee for Thy love to them, and we rejoice with Thine angels, that at last they have come to repentance. Thou hast driven the darkness away from the souls of many who never saw the brightness of Thy face before; as in the old time Thou didst say, "Let there be light, and there was light," so again the light has shone into the hearts of men at Thy word. We thank Thee too for all the rest and consolation and strength and wisdom and joy, which Thou hast granted to those who have long

known Thee; the poor and the troubled have forgotten their sorrows in Thy presence, and Thou hast made them glad with the vision of Thy glory. And we thank Thee for all the zeal and faith and power with which many of Thy servants have spoken to men of Thine authority and Thy love. Thou hast not forsaken Thy Church. The Holy Ghost abides with us still according to Thy word.

And now that the work and joy of the day are over, we entreat Thee, for Christ's sake, to remember and to answer all the prayers that have been offered, and to confirm all the right and holy purposes which the hearts of fervent and devout men have been led to form. Especially we ask Thee to listen to the cry of any who have been sorely troubled this day by the discovery of their sin and peril, and who at this moment are beseeching Thee to have mercy upon them, and, for Christ's sake, to save them. We unite our prayers with them. They are our brethren, O God. We have passed through the same sorrow, humiliation, and fear. For Christ's sake Thou didst listen to us; for Christ's sake listen to them and grant them Thy peace.

Forgive our sins, too, O God most merciful. Forgive us that there was not greater fervour, reverence, and depth of earnestness in our worship, that there was not greater gladness in our thanksgivings, and greater intensity in our intercessions for our Christian brethren and for all mankind. How little, O God, we care for the race which Thou lovest so well!

During the night defend us from harm. If we be awake let bright and happy thoughts of Thyself come to us. When we rise in the morning may we still be with Thee. We ask all in Christ's name. *Amen.*

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Monday Morning.

O LORD, we thank Thee for the tender care with which Thou hast watched over us during the hours of sleep, and for the comfort and health in which we arise this morning. We praise Thee for the light of day, and for the abounding gifts of Thy providence by which Thou dost anticipate our wants. We thank Thee for the recruited strength which fits us for the labours of our vocation, and for the promise of Thy grace to guard and purify our hearts. We adore Thee for that atoning sacrifice through which our sins are forgiven, and under the influence of which we become strong to resist the evils around us. Thy mercies are indeed new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.

Help us, O Lord, to carry into the busy hours of the week all the holy impressions and resolutions of Thy day. Grant us grace to pursue our secular calling in a Christian spirit. May our most trivial occupations be ennobled by the high principles on which they are conducted; may all our works be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. May we honour Thee by the uprightness and integrity of our

conduct, by the unselfishness and generosity of our spirit, and by our endeavour in all things to obey the law of Christ. May we find in the several duties of life the means of Christian training and discipline, whereby our principles may be exercised and strengthened, and our need of Thine help be more effectually learnt. May we not covet the wealth of this world, but desire to employ whatever we gain for the good of those who are dear to us, and for the service of Thy Church. Whilst not slothful in business, may we be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all for the glory of God.

And, Father, we pray that in our home life we may act worthily of Thee. May we be ever conscious of the presence of our Lord, and seek to manifest His spirit. May we be gentle and forbearing towards each other, and faithful in rendering to all in the household their respective dues. May we minister to one another's welfare, and guard against selfishness in thought and word and deed. Save us, O Lord, from luxury and display, from pride and vainglory, from the snares of ambition and the desire of human applause, and help us to walk humbly with our God. May those who are young, especially, learn to value everything according to its effect on their spiritual character, its tendency to make them just and pure and good. May they become truly wise through the teaching of Thine Holy Spirit.

O Lord, our God, we know that at all times we are

exposed to temptation, and that in the excitement and absorption of business we are liable to forget our danger. O let us not be off our guard this day. Suffer us to run into no sin, but keep us in ail our ways. May we be in the fear of the Lord all the day long, and may the remembrance of Thy presence be our strength.

O most merciful Father, we pray Thee to forgive all our sins, and to preserve us by Thy mighty power through faith unto salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Monday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, suffer us, we beseech Thee, to draw near to Thee. We have been brought by Thy providential care to the close of the day, and we ask Thee, of Thy great goodness, to pardon all our sins. We carry about with us an evil heart of unbelief, which is prone to go astray from the living God. We are so much engrossed in the things which are seen and temporal, that we forget the things which are unseen and eternal. We are too often unmindful of Thy presence; we yield too readily to the temptations which beset us in business and the concerns of daily life, and so transgress Thy holy law. We bewail the imperfections and sins into which we are ever falling, and from which we have not been exempt this day. Enter not into

judgment with Thy servants, O Lord, for in Thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Divine High Priest and Mediator. And grant us, we pray Thee, the effectual aid of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may not only confess our sins but overcome them. Let the shame and grief which they bring convince us more fully of their great evil, and lead us to watch against them with more earnestness and prayer. May we regard them with increasing abhorrence, as opposed to Thy nature and will, and destructive of our own well-being, and thirst after that holiness without which no one can see the Lord. O God, we rejoice to know that Thou regardest us with warm approval when we are resisting sin, that Thou art ready to grant us all the help we need in the conflict, and that Thou wilt bring us off victorious, if we trust in Thee. Let Thy grace now be vouchsafed to us that we may triumph over the evil which still cleaves to us, and may thereby rise into Thy glorious likeness. May we thus be prepared for Thy fellowship, and obtain that holy peace which the sense of Thy favour alone can impart.

O Lord, we beseech Thee to think on those who are dear to us. We know not the dangers to which they are exposed, the sorrows they feel, or the blessings they need. But, Father, Thou knowest. Supply all their wants according to Thy riches in glory by Jesus Christ. Remember them with the favour which Thou bearest unto Thy people: O visit them with Thy salvation. Sanctify them wholly, and preserve their

whole spirit and soul and body blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless all Thy faithful people. Help them to do honour to their profession, and by the consistency of their lives to attract sinners to the Cross. Revive Thy Churches, give power to Thy ministers, convert and save the world.

Grant, Father, that we may lie down this night in peace, rejoicing to know that Thine eye neither slumbers nor sleeps, and that Thou wilt keep guard over us. Let no evil befal us, no plague come nigh our dwelling. May we rest beneath the shadow of Thy wing, and in the morning awake with the blessed consciousness of Thy love. We ask all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Tuesday Morning.

O LORD most holy, O God most mighty, we again venture to approach Thy throne, for Thou callest upon us to come to Thee. Thou art great and glorious, and infinitely exalted above our blessing and praise. The heavens and the earth are Thine; and Thou art ever receiving the praise and the homage of the unfallen and the redeemed in heaven. We desire to join with those holy and happy spirits in their adoration and thankfulness. Sure we are there is nothing so beautiful as to worship Thee. In Thy presence there is fulness of joy; at Thy right

hand there are pleasures for evermore. Purify our tastes more and more; deepen our sensibility for spiritual joy. Let not the coarse and corrupt desires of our fallen nature gain the ascendancy over hallowed and noble aspirations kindled within us by the Holy Ghost. If we have been taught to prefer Thy favour to all beside,—to say from our hearts, Thy loving-kindness is better than life, we thank and praise Thee for it; and again we beseech Thee to preserve us from falling into the spirit of the world.

We confess before Thee our sins. We have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We would guard against using these familiar words without considering their import. We desire to acknowledge our unworthiness before Thee with a deep consciousness of our individual sins, and with an intelligent and scriptural perception of their turpitude, of their guilt, of their condemnation, and of their consequences. Humble us, we beseech Thee; take away all veils of delusion, and may we look down into the depths of our hearts and discern the corruptions which are lurking there. It is a sad sight which we behold when we look within. Have mercy upon us, through Jesus Christ. Thou hast taught us to trust in Him as the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. Justify us freely by Thy grace, as revealed in His work of redemption. Send peace into our hearts. Bestow upon us the Spirit of adoption. Teach us to say, Abba, Father; the Spirit witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God.

Deliver us from the law of sin and death. What the law could not do, in that it was weak in the flesh, accomplish Thou, O God, in us, by Thy truth, Thy grace, Thy love, as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Stamp upon our memories the teachings of Thy Son and His apostles respecting these things as present truths, nor let any evil influences tear away our trust in them.

O Lord, take care of us this day. Provide for our temporal wants, and guide us through all paths of temptation. Keep us humble and lowly, yet make us brave and courageous, and constant in the discharge of duty and the endurance of trial. If we forget Thee, O do not Thou forget us. Be near to us at every moment, and often disclose Thyself to us amidst the dark clouds of obscurity and obstruction which the world creates around us, and which our hearts, alas! are so apt to attract and increase. We are in Thy hands; do with us that which seemeth good in Thy sight. Lord, bless all whom we love; overshadow them with Thy presence here below, and guide them at last to mansions of peace and rest above. Remember our country; prosper and save the Queen, regulate our national affairs; make Great Britain a joy to the whole earth. Pity the heathen. Send them the gospel. O Father, recover them from their idolatries, and teach them Thy holy worship. Hear us, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Tuesday Evening.

WE desire to approach Thee this evening, saying, Whom have we in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that we desire besides Thee. Help us to say this in all sincerity and truthfulness. There are moments, blessed be Thy holy name, when we can use these words as expressing the deepest feeling of our hearts; but how often do we think and act, feel and speak, and desire and resolve, as we might do, were there no object of worship and love in heaven, no Divine providence and care over men upon the earth. We lament these our great inconsistencies, and pray for Thy Holy Spirit to awaken within us, and to keep alive in our minds, evermore, devout remembrance of Thee, firm dependence upon Thee, and habitual obedience to Thee.

Again, through this day Thou hast protected us. We look back with amazement at Thy mercy. Truly hadst Thou dealt with us after our sins, Thou wouldst have forsaken such rebellious creatures as we are, and cast us off for ever. We have been indifferent to Thy claims upon us. We have not kept Thy commandments. We have accepted and enjoyed Thy mercies, unmindful of the loving hand which daily dispenses them. We have permitted the world, with its vanities, to drive Thee away from our thoughts, and to usurp that place in our hearts which should be Thine, O Lord. We have followed the devices and desires of our own evil hearts, instead of adoring and

loving and serving Thee. And yet Thou art with us still. Our peaceful home, our numerous domestic comforts, our health and strength, our bonds of family love, our precious friendship, our pleasant relationship to many around us, and the sources of gratification Thou dost open before us, all declare Thy forbearance, long-suffering, bountifulness, and patient fatherly love. We desire to mingle before Thee praise and confession, adoration and penitence, prayer and thanksgiving. Pardon our sinfulness, through Jesus Christ. Help us to rest on His efficacious propitiation for sin. To whom can we come when oppressed with a sense of our guilt, but to that Redeeming Lord who died for us upon the cross? And as we crave after holiness, sure that without it we must be strangers to salvation, security, and happiness, we earnestly cry unto Thee for the great gift of Thy Holy Spirit. We can do nothing without Him. Oh, shed His light and grace, His purifying power, His enlivening influence, upon these dark, sinful, depraved, dead souls of ours.

We commit ourselves to Thee for another night. Be the guardian of our sleeping hours. Let no fears distress us, no terrors haunt us, no thoughts of danger make us afraid. Take care of our persons and our dwelling, our bodies and our souls, ourselves and our dear relations and friends. Thou art the Shepherd of Israel, Thou never slumberest nor sleepest. Thy flock are secure under Thy protection both by night and by day. Take us into Thy fold. Give Thine

angels charge concerning us. Yea, be Thou, O omnipotent and gracious One, our Keeper, Guardian, Friend, and Portion, now and evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Wednesday Morning.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our spirits, help us to come to Thee with all the trust and reverence which Thy greatness and Thy love should inspire in the hearts of Thy children. We have been ungrateful for Thy goodness, and we have broken Thy laws; but Thy compassions fail not, Thou art ever ready to forgive; Thou wilt not cast us away from Thy presence, nor take Thy Holy Spirit from us.

We give Thee thanks that Thou hast defended us from harm during the night. All are safe whom Thou dost keep, and none can be safe except in Thy keeping. We rejoice that even when trouble and sorrow come upon us Thou art able to make our suffering minister to our everlasting blessedness. Help us to rest with perfect confidence in Thee.

We adore Thee for the mercy which Thou hast shown to our race. Heavy penalties come upon us for our wrong doing; but Thou dost not always chide, neither dost Thou keep Thine anger for ever. Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. Even those who fear Thee not are enriched and made glad by Thy bounty. We

bless Thee for the human love which Thou dost send to watch over us in our infancy, and for the light-heartedness of our youth. We bless Thee for the affection which soothes the anxieties of manhood, and which ministers to the comfort of old age. We bless Thee for all the innocent pleasures of sense, for the joy which the strong find in their work, and for the refreshment which the weary find in sleep. We bless Thee for the noble delights of the intellect, and that through books Thou didst make the wise and the good of all times and of all countries our friends. We bless Thee for all the great gifts which Thou hast conferred upon men, by which they have been enabled to reveal to us the wisdom and wonderfulness of Thy works, and to minister in many ways to the happiness and dignity of human life. Above all, we bless Thee for Him who died, the Just for the unjust, to bring us back to Thee. Through Him Thou didst make us partakers of Thine own nature and sons of Thy glory. With heart and soul and strength we bless Thee for Thy great salvation.

Help us throughout the day to remember Thy love. May it be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, and restrain us from all sin.

Be with us and all who are near and dear to us. When the day is over may we and they be able to look back upon it with joy, and to anticipate with peace that solemn time when we shall have to give account of all its words and deeds.

Hear us, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening.

MOST holy and most merciful God. Thou dwellest in light that no man can approach unto. Even Thine angels cannot know all Thy greatness and Thy glory. And yet Thou art nigh to all them that call on Thee, to all that call on Thee in truth. In our trouble and in our sin Thou art full of pity and compassion and love for us, and we may speak to Thee without fear. We know that we are weak, but Thou rememberest that we are dust. We confess with sorrow and shame that we have grievously sinned against Thee, but Thou hast laid on Christ the iniquities of us all.

Yet let us not forget that Thou art a great God, clothed with honour and majesty. By Thine anger we should be consumed. We cannot hide from Thee in secret places where Thine eye cannot follow us, nor flee beyond the reach of Thy hand. Reveal to us Thy great holiness, that we may know how Thou lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity.

We have forgotten Thy commandments this day, and while we ask Thee to forgive us, we also ask Thee to inspire us with a deep abhorrence of sin, and suffer us not to suppose that it is a right thing to break Thy most holy law. May we constantly remember that Thou wilt render to us according to our deeds; and that although Thou dost pardon our iniquities, we must suffer loss through all our wrong doing. May we fear lest, even if we are saved it should be so as by fire.

By patient endurance in well-doing may we seek for glory, honour, and immortality.

We give Thee thanks for all the mercy Thou hast shown to mankind to-day. Thou hast borne with the sins and follies of those who love Thee. Thou hast watched over and kept from harm great multitudes of men who do not even try to serve Thee. To many who have not sought Thy kindly help, Thou hast given strength to resist temptation to grievous sin, that they might be saved from utter ruin and despair, and that a pure and upright life might still remain possible to them. To many who invoked Thy mercy in the morning, Thou hast granted large and nobler blessings than they hoped for.

Now that the night has come, watch over us and over all whom we love. May the sleep of little children who are dear to us be peaceful and healthful. May the sick and the weary and the sorrowful and the aged forget, during the time of darkness, all their troubles, sufferings, and infirmities. If we be awake, may we be quiet from fear of evil, and may thoughts of Thy love make our hearts sing for joy.

Hear us, O God, and forgive our sins, and reveal to us Thy grace and Thy glory, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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Thursday Morning.

O LORD, Thou indeed art righteous. Thou art also the righteousness of Thy people. They know of no rule of right save that which comes from Thee. It is in Thy nature to be just, and Thy laws are all like Thyself, as coming from Thyself.

But Thou art merciful as well as just. Through the mediatorial influence under which this world is placed, Thou canst be at once just and merciful in Thy dealing with men. We bless Thee that we know this. We bless Thee that we know that Thou dost enlarge Thy suffering people when they are in distress, that Thou hast mercy on them, and dost hear their prayer. In all our times of trouble may we remember that it is so written. We would ever be mindful, that while all flesh is grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass, and that while the grass withereth and the flower is sure to fade, Thy word, like Thyself, endureth for ever. O Lord God, we bow down and worship before Thee as being ever the same in the midst of a universe which is never the same. To Thee, as the Ancient of Days, we do homage. In Thee, as the Everlasting, we place our trust.

Save us, we beseech Thee, from the men who would traduce Thy people, would make what is their glory appear to be their shame. May all who bear reproach for Thee know how to bear it. Teach vain men who follow after falsehood, to stand in awe and sin not. May we never forget that the godly man is set apart

by Thee to be especially Thine; that Thou dost hear such when they call upon Thee, and dost deliver them. May our faith be strong, not only in Thy power, but in Thy willingness, to bless Thy people. When Thou givest quietness, who then can make trouble? When Thou art for us, who can be against us?

While there are many who say, Who will show me any good? being devoid of good, and bewildered as to where to seek it, we thank Thee if we know where it may be found. We thank Thee if a happy experience leads us to say, Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us. Thou hast put gladness in our heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. This, O Lord, is the privilege of Thy people. May it be ours. While grateful for all the worldly good it may please Thee to bestow upon us, may we know that there is a profound blessedness in the sense of Thy favour surpassing all else. This, O Lord, is Thy secret. The world knoweth it not. It is made known to them who fear Thee. May the peace which flows from it be ours—ours in this life, as an antepast of the life to come.

Once more, heavenly Father, we have laid us down and slept. Once more Thou hast made us to dwell in safety. Still remember us for good, for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

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Thursday Evening.

O THOU Searcher of hearts, Thou knowest that every soul has its treasure—has that which to it, is its chief good. Help us to see the wisdom of taking care that our treasure shall not be anything we must leave on this side Jordan, but something that we can take with us to the better Canaan. We thank Thee for the life to come which Thou hast revealed to us through Jesus Christ. May we be rich in the kind of wealth which devout souls take with them into that life—rich in the habits of enlightened thought and sympathy which may fit us for finding a home in heaven.

We praise Thee, O Lord, for all we are taught in Scripture as to Thy care of Thy creatures, and especially of the souls that trust in Thee. We remember with joy and praise that the birds of the air are fed by Thee, that the grass of the field is clothed by Thee, and that the flowers of the earth have their beauty from Thee. Help us, and help all Thy children to believe that if Thou dost so feed the sparrow, and so clothe the grass, Thou wilt not fail to feed and clothe the redeemed whom Christ has bought with His precious blood.

Help us, heavenly Father, to rise above all undue anxiety about our earthly future. Thou knowest the things we need. We would trust to Thee to provide for us. While we are diligent in duty, may we also be simple-minded in our trust in Thee. May we not

weary and distress our souls by pictures of suffering in the future that may never come. Help us indeed to feel that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Merciful Father, watch over Thy children everywhere, and over Thy Church everywhere. Especially be near to those who are in trouble and cast down. Pity, too, we beseech Thee, the sorrows pressing upon a world estranged from Thee. Forbid that those sorrows should work death. Dispose us all to look to Him who was a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, that through His love and grace our tears may be dried and our hearts find peace. Help us to remember that Thou dost not afflict willingly; that such things come to correct evil or to prevent evil. O God, we would not choose sin rather than affliction. We would choose affliction rather than sin. Thou canst speak to the heart in the wilderness of grief in a way which the sorrowing only know, and Thou canst make the light especially welcome to those who have passed through the darkness. May we know how to confide in Thy wisdom, Thy faithfulness, Thy goodness, Thine all-sufficiency at all times.

We are daily trespassers before Thee. Forgive, we entreat Thee, this day's trespasses. Accept our grateful acknowledgments for Thy goodness. Under the curtain of the night may we dwell safely. We ask it for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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Friday Morning.

MOST bountiful and gracious God,—the Creator of the light and of the darkness, who didst at first divide the night from the day, appointing the night for rest and sleep, and the day for activity and conscious life,—Thou makest the outgoing of the morning to rejoice; and we, in glad light of another day, offer Thee our service of thanksgiving. We bless Thee for the protection of the night, for the sleep that has refreshed us, and for the watchful keeping that has preserved us. We committed ourselves to Thee when we laid us down to rest, and we have slept in safety, for Thou, Lord, hast sustained us. The darkness has brought no terrors. Thou hast neither slumbered nor slept; Thine eye has not been turned away from us; Thine hand has not been withdrawn. And now that we awake we are still with Thee. Thou hast renewed the mercies of our conscious life; Thou hast prevented our morning prayer by the blessings of Thy goodness; Thy mercies wait upon our necessities: every want is supplied; Thou givest us all things richly to enjoy. We would consecrate to Thee the day that is now opening upon us. We know not what may befal us before it closes; what arduous duties we may have to discharge; what strong temptations we may have to resist; what great sorrows we may have to endure: our assurance is that Thou knowest all our strength and weakness, and that Thou wilt be our helper in all. Thou knowest also our

ignorance and our folly; the ways in which we delude ourselves; the power which our sinful desires give to temptation; and how blind and faltering our faith is in the midst of the things of sense. We cast ourselves upon Thy merciful helping. Be Thou our arm every morning. We seek to know the great truths and principles of Thy word; when we wake it talks with us. Help us to go forth trusting in the love that never fails, and full of the holy principles and purposes and feelings which Thy word inspires. We come boldly to Thy throne of grace that we may obtain mercy for the day, and grace to help us in whatever may be its needs. Help us to listen for Thy voice even amid the din of earthly things. Help us in our busiest hours to see Thy hand in everything that shall befal us or be done around us. Help us to read great lessons in even the commonest things. Nothing is too insignificant for Thy use in teaching and perfecting us. Thou visitest us every morning, and triest us every moment. May our hearts and tempers bear the test of little things; let no eagerness of business beguile us into forgetfulness of Thee; let no household cares divert our calm religious faith; let no fret, or worry, or provocation irritate or make us impatient. May our souls be kept in perfect peace, stayed upon Thee. May we offer to Thee as service and sacrifice everything we do, even the least and most commonplace. If it please Thee, send us prosperity, peace in our families, success in our business, esteem among our fellow-men; or, if Thou shalt see it best

to appoint us sorrow and loss and reproach, help us to maintain true and holy and trustful hearts, faithful in love to Thee, and patient and magnanimous in all feelings and thoughts towards our fellow-men. Whatever outward things may come, let our souls never swerve from their love and service. In every experience and possibility of the day may we be in Thy fear, and present our bodies to Thee a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable service. And we will render to Thee, the Father of an infinite majesty, and to Thine honourable, true, and only Son, and to the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, everlasting praise. *Amen.*

Friday Evening.

O THOU who dost permit us to call Thee our Father who art in heaven, we gather round Thy feet, even as after the various occupations of the day children gather in their home; and before we retire to our rest for the night, we would for awhile commune with Thee, think of Thee, and worship Thee; for to think of Thy thoughts and ways gives us understanding concerning our own. In the light and quiet of Thy presence we would ask ourselves concerning our service and our feeling this day: how much we have done that we ought not to have done, and left undone that we ought to have done; how much has been done unspiritually and selfishly; so that we need in

penitence to ask for Thy forgiveness. How many things we purposed to do that we have not done; how imperfect our goodness has been; how soiled and even sinful our best feelings and doings. In the morning we prayed to Thee for the manifold grace which the day might need; how little we have tried to realize our prayers; how largely we have even forgotten them. And when the time came for putting forth energy, to perform duty, to resist temptation, to endure trial, we thought neither of the holy instructions of Thy word, nor of the ready help of Thy grace; we permitted feelings that were foolish to influence our conduct, and feelings that were not pure to intercept the flowing forth to Thee of our hearts. Thus we have fallen short of the wisdom and strength which we might have won. It may be that we have sinned, that fresh guilt has been contracted, and the unholy feeling of our heart has been permitted to grow. O forgive us, and let the precious blood of Christ be sprinkled upon our consciences, that we may be cleansed from all sin. Help us now to attain to a humble, holy, trustful mind, as for a little while we wait upon Thee. Subdue within us all turbulence of spirit that the day may have wrought; and if our holy strength has been wasted by our work in the world, or by the fretful cares of life, let it be now renewed. We would remember Thy claims upon our service and our love. We would meditate upon Thy precious teachings concerning both this life and the life to come. Oh, it is a precious thing to turn from

the bustle and care of every day, to find in Thee holy rest and strength for our life. Let wise thoughts and sanctifying influences possess our souls, and let their power be with us in all days to come. Help us to connect holy purposes with our most secular work. Let pious feeling sanctify everything we do, and so strongly possess our souls that we can never be forgetful of Thee, or cold and formal in living to Thee.

If with any, sorrow and darkness are settling down upon their way, making their hearts fear, and their homes sad, be Thou their light and comfort; do Thou to-night draw the curtains of their bed and give them sleep. Have pity upon the sick; if it please Thee give them bodily ease and healing. Above all, give them patient, trustful, loving hearts, that they may by exercises of faith draw, from the treasures of Thy love, confidence and strength—grace to help them in their time of need. Be merciful to those who kneel by the couch where parting life is laid. Give them faith in Thee, the living God, and in Him who wept at the grave of Lazarus and proclaimed Himself the Resurrection and the Life. Give them this greatest comfort in their greatest desolation, this brightest hope in their darkest sorrow. All mercies that we need for ourselves, and for all whom we love, we pray for in the name of our faithful and merciful High-Priest. *Amen.*

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Saturday Morning.

ALMIGHTY Lord, who dwellest in the light which is inapproachable, whom no man hath seen or can see. From eternity to eternity Thou art God. Thou art infinitely mighty, infinitely wise, infinitely good. Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Day unto day uttereth speech, night unto night showeth knowledge; and all things proclaim Thine abounding love to us and to all mankind. Thou hast created and preserved us. From infancy until now we have been dependent upon Thy fatherly care; and Thou hast not forgotten us for a moment amidst the vast multitude of Thy creatures. We adore and bless Thee. Help us to magnify Thy glorious name. O that we may rise now above all worldly thoughts, all earthly affections, and join, in spirit, the hosts before Thy throne in exalted yet humble, in solemn yet loving worship.

How wonderful is Thy mercy to us sinful beings. If we had been treated according to our deserts, we should not have been admitted to Thy footstool this morning. Thou hast redeemed us by the blood of Thine only begotten Son. We are guilty and undone —we can make no atonement for our sins. Left to ourselves we are hopelessly lost. But Thou, O Lord, hast laid upon Him the iniquity of us all. We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous, who was a propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. We

come to Thee, now, through Him, and cast ourselves for salvation upon His Mediatorship. Help us to believe on Him, to cling to His Cross, to rely on His merit, to trust in His righteousness. Pardon us, justify us, renew us, adopt us, sanctify us, preserve us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. All which make up the blessings of Thy marvellous redemption, as promised in Thy holy word, to them that believe, bestow upon us. Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief.

We have many duties before us this day, requiring for their discharge wisdom, patience, and self-control. Give us, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit, that we may fulfil them all. We have temptations before us this day, requiring decision, strength, courage, watchfulness, for a victory over them. Grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may overcome them all. There may be troubles and sorrows before us this day, such as we cannot foresee. Bestow on us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may endure them all. There are mercies before us this day, beyond what we ask or think, pour on us Thy Spirit, that we may be grateful for them all.

The dear ones around us we commend to Thee. O keep them as the apple of Thine eye. Bless them with strength to do Thy will, and health to enjoy Thy mercies. Guard them against the perils of this mortal course, guide them in the way everlasting; and may they, when they have done and suffered all Thy will on earth, behold Thy face, and worship before Thy throne, in heaven. Comfort the sorrowful, heal the sick, soothe those who are in pain. Enlighten with

the light of Christian hope those who are passing through the valley of the shadow of death. This is a sinful world, O Lord, but it is Thy world. Thou hast created the nations of the earth, and hast redeemed them, and hast sent the gospel for their salvation. Have compassion on the heathen. Where the gospel is preached may it be believed; where it is unknown may it be sent. Hear all our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Saturday Evening.

JUST and wise art Thou, O God, in all Thy ways. Often are we made to feel that Thou seest not as man seeth. The godly have been cut off and the ungodly have lived on, and have flourished for their season. Help us ever to remember that Thy ways differ from our ways, because Thy thoughts are higher, wiser, and better than our thoughts. Thy servants, O Lord, have their work from Thee, and when that work is done, Thou dost take them to Thyself. Righteous art Thou, O God! We confess with gratitude that we know enough of Thee to make it only reasonable that we should confide in Thee, when Thy ways become to us past finding out. May we have grace to follow Thee through the darkness and the deep with a childlike trust, when such experiences come upon us. May we never envy the prosperity of the foolish, never covet that our feet should come into

their slippery places. May our death, come when or how it may, be the death of the righteous, and our last end be like his.

We now look to Thee, O God, through Him who, when in this world, could feed the hungry in the desert, and who proclaimed Himself as the Bread of life for all men. For all the humane feeling, the considerate tenderness seen in the conduct of the Saviour, we bless Thee, and we would be encouraged to look to Thy fatherly goodness with a new confidence through Him. May that living Bread which came down from heaven be truly bread to us. May it bring spiritual health and vigour and fruitfulness into our souls. As we listen to our Saviour's teaching may we see what we are as sinners in Thy sight. May we thus be prepared to hunger and thirst after righteousness. His words are spirit and life; may they ever be so to us, awakening and fostering in us every right affection towards Thyself and towards all men. May we be able to show in all the relations of life that our hearts have been given to Thee, that we have been at the feet of Him who loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus, who never ceased to pity the lowly and down-trodden, and who prayed even for His enemies. May we grow in these Christ-like dispositions. Give us, we beseech Thee, the thoughtfulness, the conscientiousness, the earnestness we need, that it may be so with us.

Another week's cares are passed away. We thank Thee for the promised rest and peace of to-morrow.

Lord, may we meet the morning light with thankfulness and devotion. Have mercy on us.

Another day's occupation has closed. Forgive the sins mixing with all we do. Accept our thanks for Thy continued goodness, and hear our supplication, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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Third Week.—Sunday Morning.

O LORD our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the return of the day of rest. O prepare our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit to spend it in Thy fear and love. May our souls rest in Thee, and may the quiet hours, which Thy considerate goodness has provided for us, prove rich in blessing to us all.

Thou hast given us Thy holy word to teach us Thy will, and to guide us into all truth. Open Thou our eyes that we may behold the wonderful things contained in Thy law. Let not the darkness and prejudice, or the weakness and incapacity of our own minds, prevent our discovering its precious stores; but grant us Thy light that its words may be to us both spirit and life. O that, as we read, we may be enriched by Thy wisdom and filled with Thy joy!

We especially implore Thee to reveal to our souls this day the grace and glory of our risen Lord. We rejoice that though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth by the power of God;—that through death He destroyed him that had the power

of death, and hath opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. O may the contemplation of His sufferings and humiliation, His resurrection and ascension, His atoning work and great salvation, deepen our love to Him and render our confidence in Him perfect. May we seek to know Him more fully. May we fix our eyes on the unspeakable beauty of His character, and be drawn more closely to Him in adoring admiration and love. May we be enabled to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. May we, as we behold His glory, be changed into His image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

O Father, we beseech Thee to assist us in all the services of Thy house. Grant us the spirit of grace and supplication that we may with our whole heart worship Thee. Quicken our understanding that we may understand Thy truth; dispose our wills to obey it. Make us joyful in Thine house of prayer, and let us feel that by its calm devotion and its wise and stimulating instructions, we are strengthened for the labours and anxieties of another week. Assist the ministers of Thy gospel to preach Thy word with power. Grant that "by manifestation of the truth they may commend themselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." May they build up and comfort Thy people, and lead many sinners to Christ; and may all those who teach the young, or visit and instruct the ignorant, find that the power of the Lord is present to save.

Bless us in our home. Dwell there with us this day. Preserve us from worldly thoughts. Let not the cares of business or the pleasures of life intrude on hours which are sacred to Thee. Let our conversation be such as becometh saints, and may promote the edification of the family. Save us from foolish talking. Let our minds spontaneously dwell on subjects which relate to Thy kingdom, and which will tend to our sanctification and establishment in the faith.

Let our friends and relations enjoy Thy fatherly care and love. Keep their hearts from all evil; enrich them with Thy heavenly grace; comfort them with the manifestation of Thy favour, and help them to endure to the end. May this day be to them, in a very special manner, a time of refreshing from Thy presence.

Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to hear and answer these our prayers. O abide with us, to keep our hearts in Thy love. Give us each hour the happy sense of Thy presence, and at the close of the day may we feel that we are still with Thee. Grant it, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Saviour. *Amen.*

Sunday Evening.

O LORD, our gracious God, grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that with devout thankfulness we may look back on the day which is drawing to a close. O how sweet is the calm which the Sabbath brings!

How refreshing to the soul are the quiet hours spent with Thee! How comforting are Thy promises! How instructive are Thy teachings! How invigorating is Thy grace! Thou hast indeed given us reason to rejoice this day. We have seen Thy power and glory in the sanctuary; we have listened to the word of Thy truth; we have, in company with Thy people, sung Thy praises; we have anticipated the joyous worship of the heavenly world, and the rest that remains for the people of God. Thou hast also permitted us to be alone with Thee; to make known to Thee our secret struggles and fears and hopes and joys, and to ask those particular blessings which as individuals we need. Thou hast suffered us to cast our care on Thee, to confess our personal sins and failings to Thee; and Thou hast borne our burden, Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of our sin. We thank Thee, O God, for this Thy great love. We would magnify Thy name ever, world without end.

But we pray Thee, O Father, that whilst we rejoice in our privileges we may remember our responsibilities. We have heard the exposition of Thy truth in public, and have read Thy word in private; we feel how much wiser in consequence we ought to be. We have been admitted to Thy presence and have beheld Thy glory; we feel how much purer we ought to be. We have received the promise of Thy heavenly grace; we feel how much stronger and more steadfast we ought to be. O help us to take heed to the things we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

O help us to improve our talents and opportunities, that we may render our account at last with joy and not with sorrow. Above all, O help us to hold fast that which we have, that no man take our crown.

Grant that Thy word may abide in our hearts, and prove the ever-flowing source of holy thoughts and words and actions. Grant that our conceptions of Thy character and Thy will, Thy providence and Thy grace, may be increasingly clear and true and comprehensive, that so we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name. Grant that we may see more and more distinctly our own feebleness and imperfection, and at the same time our Saviour's power and grace; that we may be brought to renounce all confidence in ourselves, and to trust alone in Him. May we, in all our temptations, be comforted by the thought that He has prayed for us that our faith may not fail. May we rise out of all our conflicts more vigorous and more faithful through His effectual grace. And may these days of quiet thought and Christian worship so strengthen our hearts that we may become steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

And now, O Father, that evening has gathered around us, grant that its holy calm may tranquillize our spirits, and enable us so to review the services and enjoyments of the day, that the impressions we have received may be abiding. May we experience that sacred satisfaction which the full reception of Thy truth alone can impart. May we rejoice in the assur-

ance that we have Thy favour; may we be happy in Thy love; and may we, with a sense of ineffable security, lay us down and sleep, persuaded that Thou wilt make us dwell in safety.

O Lord our God, Thy word has been cast like seed into the ground. May the grace of Thy Holy Spirit now cause it to spring up and bear fruit, and yield an abundant harvest. Let none forget the truths they have heard, or the vows their own hearts made whilst they listened. Let conviction lead to repentance and faith. Let revived interest in Thy word produce increased devotedness to Thy service. Let the prayer of faith ascend with new fervour from contrite and quickened souls. O let Thy faithful servants who have taught the young and visited the poor and preached Thy gospel, feel that they have not laboured in vain, but that Thy word has been with power. Let all the members of this household be stirred up by what they have heard to serve Thee more cheerfully and more prayerfully. May they make real and manifest progress in the Divine life. May they walk more and more worthily of Thee; and when they have finished their course, then, O Lord, through Thine abounding love, may they enter Thine everlasting joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Monday Morning.

O LORD GOD, Thou dost give times of refreshing to Thy servants. Thou dost restore comforts unto them, giving them the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Thou dost not afflict willingly. But it is Thy pleasure to make the darkness light and the crooked straight before Thy chastened ones.

We thank Thee that we possess Thy word in fuller development than was vouchsafed to Thy people in the old time. We thank Thee that Holy Scripture is not to us a lost and unknown or a secreted volume. We adore Thee that we can read it freely in the tongue in which we were born. We bless Thee that our sanctuaries are not in ruins, that they stand forth with open doors in the sight of our people. We listen with gratitude to the voice of gladness which is heard within them, and rejoice in the spiritual sacrifices which are there offered—sacrifices more precious in Thy sight than the cattle of a thousand hills.

But we mourn that so many in this land are insensible to the value of these privileges, and are in Thy sight neglecters of the gospel and of all things sacred. Give efficacy, we beseech Thee, to the agencies employed by Thy Church to bring men to a knowledge of Thy truth, and to a just sense of their obligations. Save our people from the errors and unbeliefs of our time. Save them from the superstitions that are rife among us. Teach the thoughtless, O Lord, to be

considerate—the prayerless to seek Thee. Impress upon them the lessons of the past Sabbath-day. Let not Thy wrath be kindled against us for our sins. Truly Thou art long-suffering. Thou dost bear with us wonderfully, we beseech Thee still to bear with us.

May the devout hearts among us, and the families of Thy people, be instant in prayer with Thee for these things. Make Thy servants wise to see what Israel should do. Make Thy ministers centres of light wherever they labour. And may our own hearts be right before Thee—right in our family relations, and in our relations to the Church and the world. May our households be households for Thee. May our Churches be more charged with spiritual life, and become increasingly models of harmony and usefulness. Oh for more light to see the beauty of religion as it should be, for more sanctity of soul to be in harmony with it, that we may better know how to rejoice over the good which Thou hast placed before us, and how to send a portion to those who are beyond!

Go forth with us now to our daily duties. Be our security against our daily temptations. May we be faithful to Thee in all our ways—faithful in all our transactions with our fellow-men. May our conduct be regulated, not by the opinions or practices of men, but by what we know to be Thy will. Help us, O Lord, so to live. We ask it for the Redeemer's sake *Amen.*

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Monday Evening.

WE worship Thee, O God, as the Father of light, the source of every good and perfect gift. But Thou hast taught us in many ways that those who seek light from Thee must seek it from a sincere love of light, seek it in spirit and in truth. With the froward Thou wilt show Thyself froward ; but the meek Thou wilt guide in judgment. We pray Thee, O Father, by Thy Holy Spirit's influence, to cleanse our minds from all insincerity whenever we approach Thee, that we may not be of the number who ask in vain because they ask amiss.

Save us also, we beseech Thee, from ever affecting a submission to Thy will that we do not feel. May we be far from substituting a religion of ceremonies in the place of the religion of the heart. Help us to see that there is more hope of the publican and the harlot than of those who are taken in that snare. Sincere art Thou, O God, and we would be Thy children in sincerity, loathing a lie, avoiding all false appearances, ever being simply what we seem to be. Make us strong to this end in all our acts of worship, and in all our transactions with man.

We adore the power of that grace which can soften the hard hearted, so that they shall become tender and liberal, and which can so sanctify the unholy as to present them spotless to the pure in heaven. These Thy ways, O God, are marvellous in our eyes—ways worthy of Thyself. Help us to praise Thee more for

the riches—the exceeding riches of Thy grace. May we have larger faith in the power of the gospel. May we expect more from it. May we be more concerned to diffuse its mighty influences.

May it please Thee, O Lord, to enable us to see the greatness of the privileges Thou hast conferred upon us, the richness of the vineyard in which Thou hast placed us. May we not be like those wicked husbandmen, who sought to rob Thee of Thine own, who killed Thy prophets, and crucified Thine only begotten Son. Such husbandmen there still are. Multitudes to whom Thy word is sent show themselves to be haters of goodness and the good, manifesting their enmity to Thee by their enmity to Thy truth, and to Thine image in man. Take not Thy kingdom from us for this cause. Help Thy servants to yield Thee more abundantly the fruits which Thou hast claimed from them, and teach the transgressors Thy ways. May we as a household be more sensible of Thy goodness, more devoted to Thy service.

Let Thy wings be over us this night. Under the shadow of those wings would we have our place in this world, and our place for ever. To-night may we sleep encircled by Thy rich goodness, and when we sleep our last may we sleep in Jesus. We offer this our evening sacrifice in His name. *Amen.*

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Tuesday Morning.

MOST holy and most merciful Saviour, we give Thee thanks that the remembrance of Thy perfect life in the world has not passed away; but that we have still the glory of Thy truth, and of many of those deeds of mercy and of power which were wrought by Thy hands, and of many of the words of love and wisdom which fell from Thy lips. And we thank Thee, too, that Thou art as near to us as Thou wast to those who saw Thy face and heard Thy voice on the hill-side in Galilee, in the corner of the temple, and in the upper room of Jerusalem. We could find no rest in the remembrance of Thy promises if Thou wert not near us to fulfil them; and all the love Thou didst manifest to the sick, the sorrowful, and the guilty, when Thou wast visibly present in the world could give us no peace, if we did not know that Thou art with us in all our suffering and in all our sin. Thou hast not forsaken the world, though the world rejected Thee.

We entreat Thee to be with us and with all whom we love, throughout the day. Let the consciousness of Thy presence brighten and perfect all earthly joy, and be a consolation in all earthly sorrow. Let it restrain us from sin. Do reveal Thyself to us as the day goes on, that when the night comes our knowledge of Thy holiness, Thy majesty, and Thy mercy may be greatly enlarged.

We worship Thee, O Christ! We confess that

Thou art Lord of all. By Thee were all things created that are in heaven and that are in earth. Thou hast redeemed us from sin and from eternal death. Thou hast received power over all flesh, for Thou hast died for us all. We praise Thee, and we glorify Thy most holy name.

May Thy love soon bring the whole world to Thy feet. Sustain the courage and faith of all good men who are speaking to heathen nations of Thy mercy and of the eternal life and glory which Thou hast brought within the reach of all mankind. Prosper their work. May those of the heathen who have received Thy gospel live so pure, so gentle, and so noble a life that their countrymen shall be constrained to acknowledge that the new faith must have come from heaven.

Defend us this day from accident, from sickness, and from every evil thing. May we do the work of the day with all diligence, bear its troubles with great and courageous confidence in Thy love, and enjoy its delights with calmness and self-restraint. We thank Thee that Thou hast kept us in safety during the night; keep us still from all harm.

And now to Thee, O Saviour of all men, to the Father, and to the Spirit, one God, blessed for evermore, we desire to ascribe praise and power and glory. *Amen.*

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Tuesday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we humbly and reverently adore Thee. Thou art the ever-blessed God. Thou art blessed in Thyself, in the holiness of Thy nature, and in the glory of all Thy wonderful perfections. Thou art blessed, too, in the fulness of joy with which Thou dost satisfy all who behold Thy face. In Thee the weak find strength, the sorrowful consolation, and the guilty forgiveness of sin, and eternal life.

We give Thee thanks for all the love which we know Thou hast shown to mankind since the morning. Thou hast remembered those who have not remembered Thee. Thou hast granted a thousand blessings to those who have had no thought of Thy goodness, and have not endeavoured to keep Thy commandments. Thou hast defended from strong temptation very many who would have fallen into grievous sin, had temptation assaulted them. Thou hast granted to the suffering consolation and peace. We give Thee thanks for Thy goodness to ourselves, for whatever joy we have had in the vision of Thy face, and for whatever manifestations Thou hast given us of the tenderness of Thy compassion and the energy of Thy love. To us Thou art not an unknown God. We have beheld Thy glory. We have rejoiced in Thy loving-kindness and Thy grace. We beseech Thee now to forgive all the sins and follies of the day, for Christ's sake, and to chase away the clouds and dark-

ness which may have gathered about us by the light of Thy presence. Make our souls pure and clean by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit.

Now that the work of the day is over, may we rest in Thee. Let not its vexations, its cares, its troubles, or even its sins separate us from Thyself. May we have peace with Thee through our Lord Jesus Christ. May we take no thought for the morrow, but cast all our care upon Thee.

We thank Thee for the eternal rest which lies beyond death, and for the hope that all who love Thee in this life will dwell for ever in Thy light and glory. Suffer us not to be troubled that we ourselves and those who are dear to us are approaching day by day, nearer and yet nearer, to that supreme and wonderful blessedness. May we desire to be with Christ; and having this hope, may we endure all the transient sorrows of this present life with calm and quiet trust in Thy love.

May we and all who are dear to us be kept in peace this night, and rise in the morning in health and strength.

Hear us for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Wednesday Morning.

O LORD, how wonderful is Thy name in all the earth. Thou hast set Thy glory above the heavens. The heaven, even the heaven of heavens

cannot contain Thee. Thou art clothed with light as a garment, and art arrayed in glory and majesty. The sun and the moon and the stars Thou hast ordained, and the brightest of them is but a dim reflection of Thine infinite effulgence.

Again Thou hast turned the shadow of death into the morning, and hast waked up nature to light and gladness. We bless Thee for the ordinance of the day after the season of the night. We would open our eyes to the illustration it brings of Thy glory; and our ears to the voice with which it shows forth Thy praise; and our hearts to the appeals which it makes to our love and wonder and thankfulness. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless His holy name.

The gospel of Thy Son is the brightest of all lights which Thou hast caused to shine upon us, and we walk amidst its sunshine every day. Help us now to see Thee and to feel what an unspeakable privilege it is: and as in this respect we are raised so far above the heathen, even the wisest of them in ancient times, may we lay to heart our corresponding responsibilities and walk in the light whilst we have the light, lest darkness come upon us. Suffer us not to wander from the paths of Thy holy word this day. Fortify our faith alike in its precepts and promises. Give us wisdom that we may fitly apply its principles to the daily details of life. May the remembrance of Scripture come over our minds at the right moment. In duty, in temptation, in trouble, in weakness, let the

light fall in blessed rays upon our path. Teach us the way wherein we should go, for we lift up our hearts unto Thee. Suffer us not, O Lord, to listen to any sophistry, to yield to any influence, which would persuade us that Thy word is unsuited to our circumstances, unsuited to the age in which we live. Hast Thou not assured us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; and may we clearly see and deeply feel that as His grace will never fail to help us, so His commandments can never cease to bind us. Inspire us with such love to Him and His words, that we may never wish to do or to be in any thing otherwise than He requires. May we make the New Testament the law of our life to-day. May we use it as a light to our feet and a lamp to our path.

Again we thank Thee for all Thy goodness to us. Through another night Thou hast protected us. We appear before Thee as monuments of Thy mercy. How ungrateful and wicked it is ever to forget our dependence upon Thee. O forgive us our past sins in this respect.

This day bless our friends, keep them in all their ways, and cause them not to sin against Thee. We ask of Thee to pour Thy Spirit upon all flesh, and to establish throughout the world the kingdom of Thy Son.

Grant this, O Lord, for His sake. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening.

O LORD our God, though darkness has once more overtaken us, with Thee there is no darkness at all. The night is light about Thee; yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee, but the night shineth as the day, and the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. Thou dwellest in light which is unapproachable, whom no man hath seen or can see. Thy nature is mysteriously glorious. Who by searching can find out God? Angels, as they worship Thine infinite Majesty, veil their faces with their wings. Help us to bow before Thee with unfeigned reverence, and to catch the feeling of those pure and happy spirits who worship Thee evermore with humble and holy devotion.

We are taught in Thy word to believe that there is a world where the light shall never disappear, because the glory of God doth light it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. The inhabitants need no candle nor light of the sun; for Thou, the Lord God, giveth them light, and the days of their mourning are ended. O Lord, when the shadows of evening gather round us, we are reminded of the calamities and sorrows of human life, of the consequences of many sins, and the penalties of our great iniquity. How dark would this world be if it were as dark as sin would make it, without Thy gospel, without the illumination of Thy redeeming grace. O Thou who hast caused the light to shine out of darkness, shine

into our hearts, giving us the light of the knowledge of the glory of Thyself in the face of Jesus Christ. And help us to think of that blessed state of existence to which Thou hast promised to raise us, where we shall be delivered from darkness and distress, for there is no night there.

We bless Thee that Christ has brought life and immortality to light by the gospel. We have the assurance of His word, that in His Father's house there are many mansions, and that He is gone to prepare a place for us. O give us a title and a fitness for that Divine inheritance. Every night brings us nearer to eternity; may it witness in us an ever-increasing measure of spirituality, devotion, purity, and love. We are pilgrims and strangers on the earth, as all our fathers were. Teach us to remember that this is not our rest, and to make Thy statutes our song in the house of our pilgrimage. Lift up our hearts by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may have our conversation in heaven. May we rise with Christ, and have our life hid in Thee with Him. He is our forerunner, and may we imitate His example, and be imbued with His temper, and cherish a disposition like His, and reflect in our character His moral excellences; so that we may attain to the world of purity and gladness, where He reigneth with Thee for evermore. We thank Thee for His promise, that where He is there His people shall be also. Suffer not our faith to fail, but may we endure to the end, and be saved with an everlasting salvation.

Lord, bless our family and friends. Sanctify the prosperity of the prosperous, and the sorrows of the sorrowful. Make the strong laborious, the suffering patient, and all obedient to Thy perfect will. Take care of our country, and all the nations of the earth; our Church, and all the Israel of God throughout the world; pity those who know Thee not. Have mercy on the heathen. Save the lost.

We leave our prayers for ourselves and others at Thy footstool. We are sure, if sincere and fervent, they cannot be in vain. Pardon and accept us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

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Thursday Morning.

ETERNAL GOD, we thank Thee that Thou hast raised us up from our sleep, and permitted us again to behold the light of day. We praise Thee for that tender provision of Thy love, by which our wearied bodies renew their strength, and our minds are freshened and invigorated for duty. We praise Thee that while we are slumbering in unconsciousness, Thou art ceaselessly active in sustaining our life and preserving us from evil. We thank Thee that, when we awake, the morning light is already shining to guide us in our way. We praise Thee for the gifts of Thy providence, which satisfy our bodily wants, and fill our hearts with gladness. Thou preventest us with the blessings of Thy goodness. We thank Thee

above all for the gift of Thy well-beloved Son, and for eternal life through Him; for the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, which purifies our conscience and makes us new creatures in Christ Jesus, children of God and heirs of heaven.

But we pray that whilst Thou art doing so much for us, we may be mindful of what Thou commandest *us* to do. May we not be content with the mere attainment of life through Jesus Christ our Lord, precious as this is in the last degree, but may we seek to have it more abundantly. May we be stimulated by the exhortations of Thy word, and the examples which it holds up for our imitation, to strive after every grace of the Christian character. May we add to our faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity; that so an entrance may be ministered to us abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

O let us never give ourselves up to the indolent enjoyment of what we have attained, or suppose that we can be safe when we are stationary; but may we ever forget those things which are behind, and reach forth unto those things which are before. May we crave after higher knowledge and warmer love, and more perfect conformity to the image of Thy Son. May we daily walk with Him, and find in His fellowship a quickening and purifying power, a perennial

source of holy joy. May we by His help overcome every evil that reigns within, and every temptation that threatens without. May we have the clearest evidence that we are renewed in the spirit of our mind, and, whilst we rejoice in the assurance that even now we are the sons of God, exult in the blessed hope that when He shall appear we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.

O Lord, we commend to Thy care the members of our family, and all those who are dear to our hearts. Let them receive the richest bestowments of Thy quickening grace. May they run the heavenly race with untiring diligence; may they be satisfied with nothing short of the very highest attainments; may they tread closely in the steps of their great and glorious Leader; and may they at length receive from His hand, with words of loving commendation, the crown of glory which fadeth not away.

O Lord, we pray that Thy gospel may be published throughout all the world, and everywhere be welcomed as the wisdom of God and the power of God. May idolatry and superstition and evil disappear, and truth and righteousness and love be lastingly established. May Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

And now we pray Thee to be with us throughout the day. May we be kept from everything that can harm us. May we exhibit the spirit of Christ in all our actions, and find in all the duties we have to discharge opportunities of serving Thee. May we walk

worthy of the vocation whereunto we are called, and honour Thy great name. Hear us, we beseech Thee, and answer us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Thursday Evening.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we adore Thee as the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness neither shadow of a turning. From Thee cometh every good and perfect gift. We are nothing without Thee. Our lives are subject to perpetual change; we pass from health to sickness, from joy to sorrow, from success to disappointment, from strength to weakness. Our faith is not always strong; our hope is not always bright; our love is not always warm. Our purposes are too often broken off before they are accomplished; our feelings are variable and uncertain. We continue not in one stay; afflictions brighten into blessing, and days of darkness are followed by days of light and joy. Our mortal life strengthens and wanes, and at length ends in death. But Thou art the same, and with Thy years there is no change. O may we see in the mutations of our present existence proofs of our dependence, and learn more habitually to lean on Thee, the Unchangeable and Eternal. O that we may be constrained by a sense of our own weakness and instability to cleave more firmly to that gracious Saviour who is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

We pray, O Father, that Thou wouldst bless our basket and store, and secure to us the continuance of those providential gifts which minister to the comfort of our outward life. We pray Thee to preserve our bodily health, that so we may be enabled to fulfil our daily duties cheerfully and efficiently, and to enjoy the benefits of our earthly lot. We pray Thee to spare to us our relatives and friends, and especially the members of our own family; and grant that in character and reputation, no less than in outward estate, they may be upheld by Thy grace. We pray Thee, above all, to keep us stedfast in the faith, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer. Suffer not our hearts to grow cold, or our spiritual strength to decline. Help us the rather to advance. May the only change which we experience be that of progress; may we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; may we get nearer and nearer to Thee; and when we come to the end of our journey, may we find that, though our relationship to Thee is still the same, yet we are meetened to pass from the broken fellowship of earth to the perfect and uninterrupted fellowship of the heavenly world.

O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee to grant Thy blessing to mankind at large. May all the movements in society be so directed by Thy providence and grace that they may issue in real good. May darkness and ignorance be dispelled by the light of true knowledge. May selfishness and injustice

gradually yield to righteousness and love. May the corruptions of Thy pure gospel which have taken such deep root in the world come to an end, and truth flourish in simplicity and power. May strife and disunion be followed by social concord and universal peace. May the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ.

O Father, we bless Thee that Thy love has not failed us this day. Thou hast renewed to us Thy former care. Thou hast guarded us in our going out and coming in; Thou hast assisted us in our work; Thou hast been with our spirits. We thank Thee for Thy goodness, O Lord. O accept our humble tribute of gratitude and praise.

And now we ask Thee to watch over us in the night. Suffer no evil to approach our dwelling; no wicked one to disturb our peace. May Thy presence be around us to defend us from outward harm, and Thy spirit be within us to keep our souls from sin. And may we arise in the morning to give ourselves anew to Thy service, and to walk in Thy ways. We ask it for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Friday Morning.

MOST holy and most merciful God, we worship Thee. Angels and archangels, and the spirits of the just in glory have been praising Thee all the night long, and now that we have risen from our sleep,

we unite our adorations with them, and bow before Thy throne with wonder, with reverence, with devout fear, and with great joy. For Thou art a God nigh at hand. Thou hast not cast us away from Thy presence, though we have sinned against Thee. We have erred and strayed from Thy ways; our hearts have grievously forsaken Thee; but Thou art near to us still: because of the greatness of Thy long-suffering Thou hast not forsaken us. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless and praise His holy name.

We thank Thee, O merciful God, for the peace and quiet in which we live; for our pleasant home; for the friends who love us; for the work of the day and for the rest of the night; for food, for clothing, and for all the blessings by which our lives are sustained and our hearts made glad. Thou art good, and Thou doest good.

Be with us throughout the day which lies before us yet unstained with sin. Even Thine angels are strong in Thy strength, not in their own; strengthen us too, so that if temptation comes we may resist it firmly, and that if we are called to discharge any hard and painful duty, we may discharge it faithfully. May the exceeding greatness of that power which worketh in those that believe, be revealed in all of us to-day, enabling us to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to serve Thee with a free and perfect heart.

Remember all who are dear to us. If any of them should be tempted to shameful sin this day, defend them, O God most merciful, O God most mighty!

and deliver them from evil. If they have failed to ask for Thy protection, protect them in answer to our intercessions. Thou lovest them, though they may not love Thee. Pity them, and save them from all sin.

May thoughts of Thyself come to us hour after hour, as the day passes by. When we are with others and when we are alone, working or resting, in sorrow or in joy, may we be still with Thee!

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Friday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God! creator of the heavens and the earth, of angels and of men, receive our hearty thanks for the great goodness Thou hast shown us during another day. We are filled with wonder and gratitude by the inexhaustible riches of Thy grace. Through age after age Thou dost bear with the sins and follies of men, causing Thy sun to shine upon the evil and the good, and sending Thy rain upon the just and the unjust. Thou art slow to anger, and ever ready to forgive.

We entreat Thee, for Christ's sake, to pardon all the transgressions of which we have been guilty since the morning. Thou hast heard all the hasty and ungracious words which we have spoken. Thou hast been troubled by our selfishness. All the evil thoughts and impulses to which we have yielded are known to

Thee. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions.

Forgive us that we have not loved Thee more fervently, and trusted Thee more implicitly. Thou hast been yearning for our love and for our trust, and we know that we have grieved Thee by our coldness of heart and unbelief. Forgive us, for Christ's sake.

Reveal Thyself to us to-night. We have wandered away from Thee, and forgotten Thee; but through Him who died, the Just for the unjust, to bring us to Thyself, we return to Thee now. If Thine anger has not yet passed away, reveal Thine anger to us, that we may hate the sins which have purchased it. Rebuke us, O God, if we need rebuke; but forsake us not. Even while our hearts are troubled by Thy chastisements, manifest Thy love to us. And before the day is quite gone, let the sins of the day vanish with it. May we lie down in peace.

Keep us from all evil during the night. May we have quiet sleep. If we lie awake may we not be restless with care and anxiety, but may we be enabled to rejoice in Thee. Suffer us not to be disturbed by unwholesome dreams. When the morning comes, may it find us refreshed and calm; and may to-morrow be stained with fewer sins than to-day has been, and may it be bright with more faithful service.

Comfort all whom we know and love who are in any kind of sorrow. Suffer none of our friends to lose faith in Thy mercy. If any are crying to Thee out

of the depths of a great despair, listen to their cry, and save them.

We beseech Thee to reveal Thy love to all mankind. Give strength and great success to all Christian men who are trying to bring the world home to Thyself; and may the time come soon when the world shall be filled with Thy glory.

Hear us for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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Saturday Morning.

MOST gracious God, our Father in heaven, we come with boldness and gladness to Thy mercy-seat. We are not strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints. Thou hast given to our human life Thine only-begotten Son, that He might be a partaker of it; for which cause He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Believing on Him, we have received the privilege of being sons of God; and in filial faith and love we call Thee "Our Father, who art in heaven."

We have been vain, rebellious children; disobedient and unholy; wandering from our Father's love, and going into the far country where Thou art forgotten, and where the heart of children is lost. We bless Thy Fatherly love, that when our necessities compelled us to seek Thee Thou didst receive us with a generous and joyful welcome. We would live in our Father's

house with penitent and lowly hearts. We can never look to Thee with the boldness of those who are pure, nor urge the claims of those who have never sinned. If we have boldness, it is only because of Him who is our Mediator and Intercessor, and in whom we live before Thee. We would rest in the love that has gathered us; yield our hearts to its tender solicitations, and our lives to the grateful service that it constrains. Thou hast dealt bountifully with us, and we would respond to Thy goodness by our rest in Thee.

May the grace that has restored us mercifully keep us. May Thy Holy Spirit dwell within us as our teacher and sanctifier. May He so purify our hearts that we may always see Thee, and see all the things of our daily life in Thy light. We need His quickening touch, that all right impulses, all gracious affections within us may be stimulated. We need His indwelling strength that our good purposes may never fail; that our holy feelings may be kept from corrupt and selfish passion; that our spiritual life may be kept from the deadening influence of worldly things, and from all evil sympathies. May we know ourselves to be temples of the Holy Ghost, and so keep ourselves holy. May we be renewed day by day—strengthened with all might in the inner man.

Help us as Thy children to live before Thee with loving, joyous hearts. May everything that can express our love to Thee be a joy to us. May we trust Thee with assured, restful faith for all things needful for us, If Thy doings are mysterious or painful, may our faith

be undisquieted. The darker our way, the more closely may we cling to Thee and trust Thy guidance. May we patiently endure Thy faithful discipline. When called upon to suffer, may we be acquiescent and believing; remembering Him who learnt obedience by the things that He suffered. Let pain provoke no resentment; disappointment, no murmuring. Should we be bereaved even of our most precious things, help us, through our tears, to say, Thy will be done; and, amid the sorrow of natural affections, to feel the preciousness of Thy Fatherly love.

We thank Thee for our continued mercies, and pray for grace to use them rightly. Thou art better than all Thy gifts; help us in them all to see Thy great love. In every duty, in every experience, may we realize Thy presence and help;—be in Thy fear all the day long; and present to Thee our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable service. We ask these mercies for His sake, whose we are, and whom we serve. *Amen.*

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Saturday Evening.

MOST gracious Father, Thou dost gather us to Thyself after the toil and distraction of the day, after the cares and trials of the week, that we may soothe our spirits by the blessed influences of Thy care and love. We fear that we have permitted our eager business, our joyous pleasures, our anxious

cares, to divert our thoughts from Thee, and to remove our souls from their rest. We might have sanctified all these things by Thy presence, and to Thy service. Our purpose and prayer in the morning was to do so, but our firmest purpose easily fails ; we do not wait and seek for the fulfilment of even our most earnest prayer. Thus we forget Thee when we are in the world, and we ourselves become worldly and weak, and we feel that our spiritual souls are wearied and worn, that the chafing of worldly thoughts and things has injured their sensibilities and weakened their powers. It may be that we have so far forgotten Thee and Thy claims as to do things that are sinful : yielded to temptation, even knowing that what we did was displeasing and ungrateful to Thee. Our Father in heaven, in our weariness, and weakness, and sin, we can come only to Thee. Thou only hast the words of eternal life. Even as when worn by the toils of the day, the sinless Saviour sought the mountain top that He might spend the night in prayer, so we seek communion with Thee, the grace of Thy forgiveness, the grace of Thy renewing strength. We are ashamed to have again to make confessions unto Thee. Oh that we might live our days without sin, and so at evening come to Thee in simple weariness, as loving and obedient children come to a father. Mercifully forgive us, that such may be our feeling before we sleep. May we be humbled by our weakness and taught by our failures. May we walk the paths of our daily life watchful and prayerful, and trusting only in the help

of Thy grace. There is none other that fighteth for us but only Thou, O Lord. Grant unto us now, O Lord, perfect rest in Thee—rest of mind, rest of heart. In the unconsciousness of sleep may we recruit our powers, and in the morning consecrate ourselves again to Thy service.

Have mercy upon such as all the day have been wandering farther and farther from Thee, forgetting Thee more and more, doing evil as they could, doing iniquity with greediness, so that the night now closes upon them with darker minds and harder hearts. O let the darkness compel thoughtfulness; and in the quiet hours of the night may memory recal lost feelings of religious tenderness and joy, forsaken habits of prayer and fellowship and service. May that gracious penitence be wrought in them which shall bring them back to Thee even as the prodigal came back to his loving father. We pray Thee to comfort and help the sick and the sorrowful. It may be that through the night some may watch in chambers of sickness, and beseech Thee in the strong anxieties of affection. Be merciful according to their prayer. Spare lives that are useful and precious, give to them a night of healing and restoration, if so it seem good in Thy sight, if not Thy will be done. Above all give to those whom Thou hast visited with affliction the grace of piety and faith, that they may seek Thy love, and find in Thee a refuge and a stay. Protect those who are travelling, be with those who are afar off upon the sea, who go down to the sea in ships and see

Thy wonders in the mighty deep. O Thou who holdest the waters in the hollow of Thy hand, and whose word the stormy winds fulfil, give Thy almighty help to those in peril on the sea. Have mercy upon all men.

And now, Lord, prepare us for the morrow. May it be a day of light and love and peace and joy, of gracious aspirations and of holy influences to us all, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Fourth Week.—Sunday Morning.

O THOU great and bountiful God! Thou hast again opened to us the gates of the morning, and permitted us to rejoice in the weekly day of rest and worship and song. We bless Thee for the Sabbath which rests upon the land—upon toiling hands and anxious minds. Let it be a Sabbath also to weary and sorrowful hearts. It is the day of Thy worship, of holy assembly, of religious fellowship. Let all who are weary come to Thee and find in Thee a Heavenly Father, merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity, transgressions, and sins. Again Thou dost open to us the gates of Thy house; may we enter therein with joy. May we feel that as Thy guests we are invited to partake of rich blessings, that to the hunger and thirst of our souls Thou dost minister a manifold grace. Help us by kindlings of faith and love and joy, to realize Thy presence,

to meet Thee in the holy communion of spiritual life. Thou knowest all that we are, all that we need; be to us our helper, our strength, our exceeding great reward. May we be fed with the bread of God, may we drink of the river of Thy pleasures. May Thy praise enrich and gladden our souls. May our song be full of the rapture that the redeemed in heaven feel. May our prayer be full of the fervour of conscious need and eager desire. May the words that Thou shalt speak to us be very precious, and instruct and gladden our hearts. May we be kept from all error in the understanding of it; from all unbelief in the application of it. In simple faith and thankful love, may we receive it in meekness, as the ingrafted word, which is able to save our souls; and help us, out of the riches of the wisdom which it imparts, to guide and sanctify our daily life. Bless us in our fellowship one with another; may it be a consecrated communion of saints. Let the sympathies and joys of a conscious brotherhood fill our hearts. May we, in our worship of the common Father in heaven, and as common partakers of the great salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and as gathered together into the rest and joy of His tender love, feel how near to each other we are; and how truly and deeply we are members one of another. Help Thy servants who shall minister in Thy house; may they be endued with power from on high—the power of a Divine wisdom and love, the power of a tender, helpful, human sympathy, that out of the ful-

ness of their own hearts, they may speak to the hearts of others. Be with all who in other ways seek to make known the gospel of Christ; help those who teach the young; those who visit the sick; those who stand by the way-side to proclaim salvation to passers-by. Let our hours at home be full of quiet peace and holy joy. May we commune with one another, and with Thee, in gentle love and perfect rest. Let all worldly cares, anxieties, and fears, be banished from our hearts by the power of that light and purity and joy which comes from Thee. Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter therein. Lift us, that we may sit with Christ in heavenly places. Fill us, O gracious Lord, with the sanctity of Thy presence; with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ; with the joy of the Holy Ghost; and with the hope that is full of glory. We ask it for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Sunday Evening.

O LORD GOD, Thou art the only light of our life, the only joy of our strength, the only rest of our souls, and in Thee we have found to-day all wisdom and grace and blessedness. We can turn for succour and for blessing to none other but to Thee, O Lord. Sometimes we turn away from Thee, and then the things that we encounter every day, the difficulties, disheartenments, and sorrows of our life seem too great

for us, and we are cast down ; we feel that our strength is insufficient to cope with them. We cannot by our own wisdom direct our path, nor by our steadfastness maintain our course. But our rest in Thee to-day has taught us how effectually Thou canst help, and how blessed they are who wait upon Thee and trust in Thee. Thou art sufficient for all things ; Thou hast abundant grace. Coming to Thee, we not only have life but have it more abundantly. Thou hast been to us more than we can say ; we have lifted our song to Thee, and have had fellowship with those who praise Thee before Thy throne. We have united our supplications to Thee, and have felt what strength and tenderness there are in the communion of saints. Thy word has been addressed to us, and again we have felt how quick and powerful it is, how deeply it enters our souls, how variously and fully it meets with us, instructing us in all the difficulties of life, satisfying all its yearnings, and giving sanctity and peace to all its feelings. All within us that is sinful and worldly has been rebuked; all our unbelief and fear have been put to shame; all low thoughts and feelings have been lifted into the pure light of Thy holiness and love.

We have sat with Christ in heavenly places, and we close this holy day with a diminished sense of weariness, weakness, and care, feeling that we can do all things through Thy strengthening. Thou art our shield and strength, our refuge and our stay, our bread and our water of life, our joy and our exceeding great reward. Blessed be Thy name that in the midst of

our worldly toil we thus find a weekly rest; that in the midst of absorbing cares we thus find a holy sanctuary for our thoughts and hearts; that in the midst of weakness, temptation, and sorrow, we thus find light and joy of life, a rest and a strength in Him who is almighty. We look to Thee and are lightened; we wait upon Thee and renew our strength. How precious a thing it is to go up into Thy house, to unite in worship with Thy saints, to make our prayers to Thee in the great congregation, to sing Thy praises and glorify Thy name. May we meekly receive all that has been said to us for the guidance and sanctification of our lives; may we tenderly cherish all the gracious influences that have softened and sanctified our hearts, and in our common life to-morrow realize all the prayers and purposes of to-day. Oh help us to glorify Thee by consecrating to Thee every thought of our minds, every affection of our hearts, every work of our hands. Keep us through the coming week without sin and without fear. Let none of the words spoken to-day by Thy servants fall to the ground; give efficiency to all that has been said or done for Thee by Thy servants; let every good impression deepen into holy and abiding character; let every good purpose strengthen into consecrated life; and have mercy, O Lord, upon such as have encountered Thy truth with hard and unmoved hearts. Oh give them true repentance and Thy Holy Spirit, and save them from the fearful and hopeless hardening of disregarded truth and love. Grant us to-night a peaceful rest. It

is a blessed thing thus to abate the fever and restlessness of our lives, and to stay our hearts upon the great truths of Thy eternal love. May we never lose this Sabbath peace, but may Thy word of grace dwell in us richly, a well-spring of constant holiness and joy, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Monday Morning.

GRACIOUS and Almighty God, we desire devoutly to thank Thee for Thy mercy to us during the past night. We laid down and slept; we have awaked, for Thou hast sustained us. Thou didst hear our evening petition, blessed be Thy gracious name. Never may we take it as a matter of course that we enjoy refreshing repose, that we are strengthened by the night's slumber, and wake up in health to meet the return of day. Thou givest Thy beloved sleep; and that gift is not amongst the least of Thy mercies. We praise Thee, also, that Thou hast preserved our habitation in peace; safe from the raging fire, safe from robbers, who break through and steal. Nor would we look upon the provisions of our table this morning without remembering Thee. Thou dost feed us day by day. Our daily bread is Thy bestowment. Above all, we bless Thee for the spiritual food of the past Sabbath; for the bread of life sent down from heaven, of which we were enabled, through Thy mercy, to

partake. Memories of what we saw and heard and felt in Thy house now come over us. The memory of Thy truth is very sweet; the memory of our own past insensibility to it very bitter. Lord, strengthen and purify our spiritual taste, and forgive us all our contempt of Thy word in times gone by. Preserve to us, throughout this week, the influence of Thy gospel, and of that worship which we yesterday offered. Save us from confining our religion to the first day of the week. Such ignorance, folly, and superstition, we deprecate in Thy presence, and implore Thy Holy Spirit, that, having looked into the perfect law of liberty, we may *continue* therein and be blessed in our deed. We are about to renew our engagements in the world. Secular duties, trials, disappointments, and vexations lie before us. We know not what a day may bring forth. Lord, do Thou protect us. Blessed Jesus, who didst say to Peter, "Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not;" be pleased to impress us with a salutary conviction of our moral danger in a world like this; and oh! keep us by Thy gracious power, so that we may continue in the faith which overcometh the world. Let no bad temper, no sinful disposition, lead us away. Let no unhallowed thoughts enter our minds, or impure affections stir our hearts. Make us, in all our intercourse with others, true, just, faithful, brave, kind, courteous, loving. May nothing be allowed to irritate us into wrath and envy and

jealousy and evil speaking. May nothing draw us into pride, avarice, or sensuality. Lord, help us to moderate our desires and to learn the lesson of Christian contentment, to lead simple, trustful, pure, earnest, Christ-like lives. Hold us up, we humbly beseech Thee. We dare not go into the world, we dare not face its temptations, without imploring Thy protection and safety.

Whatever opportunities we may have this day and this week to assist our fellow-creatures, to comfort them in their sorrows, to guide them in their perplexities, to strengthen or inspire in them faith towards Thee and Thy Son, give us grace, O Lord, to improve them. May we know when it is wise to speak and when it is wise to be silent; and always may we be sure that a consistent and holy example will carry with it a blessing everywhere. We would add intercession for all the members of our family, for all our friends and acquaintances, and for those with whom we worshipped on the past day. Bless them all abundantly, and have mercy upon mankind at large. Send forth Thy light and truth to the ends of the earth, and shed upon the nations the showers of Thy saving love. We ask all for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Monday Evening.

O LORD, we would come to Thy footstool with thanksgiving and praise. Thou art great and

glorious, almighty, all-wise, all-merciful. Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Thy bounty cannot be exhausted ; Thy patience and pity and love never fail.

This day Thou hast been with us, watching over us every moment. We have been in the midst of danger, but Thou hast shielded us by Thine almighty hand. Diseases and accidents have befallen many, but we have escaped. There are those who have been deprived of their possessions, have been plunged into poverty, and their hearts are sinking this moment at the darkness of the prospect which is before them ; but we, O gracious Father, have preserved to us our temporal mercies, and we find ourselves to-night surrounded by our accustomed conveniences and comforts. The shadow of death has fallen over many a dwelling ; there is silence, broken only by the voice of mourning, where but lately peace and gladness reigned ; but Thou, most merciful God, hast saved us from such bitter experiences, and we are surrounded to-night by an unbroken, cheerful, happy, domestic circle. How wonderful is the patience and love which Thou hast manifested to us ! What ungrateful returns have we made for all Thy munificent bounty towards us ! We remember our sins ; how often have we forgotten Thee ! How little have we thought of Thy law and Thy gospel ! How sadly we have lived to ourselves ! We have given way to temptation, and have sinned in word and thought and deed. We confess our faults, our guilty desires, our guilty tempers, our guilty speech, our guilty silence, our guilty doings, our guilty

omissions. O holy and most merciful God, we sink before Thee in shame and contrition as we dwell upon the past. Deepen our consciousness of offence; humble us under a sense of transgression. May we not cloak and conceal our sins in Thy presence, but pour out sincere and earnest confessions at Thy feet. Forgive us, we pray Thee, for the sake of Him who shed His blood for our redemption. Heal our backslidings, O Thou merciful one. Give us the spirit of faith in Thine incarnate and atoning Son, and reconcile us to Thyself through His mediation. Create within us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Deliver us from the delusion of supposing that we can be saved *in* our sins. O holy and blessed Spirit, save us *from* them.

We entreat Thy favour on behalf of all whom we love; those who are with us at home, those who are at a distance. Thou art not far from any one of them. Thy throne is as near to them all, wherever they are, as it is to us. Draw them to Thyself by Thine efficacious grace. Make them willing in the day of Thy power to accept and obey Thy gospel. We pray for all with whom we have been associated to-day; all who have befriended us; all who have served us; and if there be any who have forsaken us, or injured us, Lord, we pray Thee to bless them. And now, wearied with the labours and cares through which we have this day passed, we fall into Thine everlasting arms, asking for rest and peace, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Tuesday Morning.

O THOU who art the source of all that is good and holy in man, it is Thine to give pious parents to families. Happy the children and the households that are in such a case. But Thou, O Lord, knowest that there are minds which no privilege can touch, which no manifestation of goodness can move. Minds there are which resist the greatest light, and are left, in retribution, to become the prey of the greatest delusions. Under influences that should soften them, and bring them in gratitude and joy to Thy service, they harden in depravity, and fall signally beneath the yoke of their ungoverned appetites and passions.

Look, O God, on the families of Thy people, and where any good thing is found in the children of Thy servants, we beseech Thee to protect and nurture it unto life eternal. We bless Thee that we so often see the children rising into the place of their parents by walking in their ways. But we mourn, O Lord, over those who, raised high as heaven by their privileges, sink to the lowest place through the abuse of them. Have mercy, O God, on the Manassehs of our generation—on the sons or daughters of pious parents who have cast off fear in the madness of their apostasy. Make the wrong they have done to the hearts that have loved them on earth, and to the love shown them from heaven, to have a place vividly before them. May these memories of the past be strong to move

the conscience and the heart, and to reclaim them. Reclaim them, O Lord, by a scourge like that of the yoke of Babylon, if nothing else may bring them to their right mind. May such offenders still live to do works meet for repentance.

Comfort, O Lord, parental hearts subject to bitter forms of trial. Help them to see the largeness of Thy mercy, the marvels of Thy grace, and still to wait and pray. We thank Thee that where sin hath abounded, it is possible that grace may much more abound. We bless Thee that where sin has become strong by indulgence, terrible in its power, its force may be broken. Bow the stiff-necked, O Lord—bend the stubborn knee. Show to the sinning what Thy grace can do, that they may not despair. Show to pious hearts what may come from Thee, that they may hope.

We thank Thee, O Lord, if we are not ourselves among the impious offspring of pious fathers or pious mothers. But alas! we have all to deplore our barrenness, and the perverseness of our ways. Enter not into judgment with us, O God, but give us, we beseech Thee, a deeper sense of Thy goodness, and make us more truly and humbly Thine.

May we be able to keep our hearts with all diligence this day, knowing that with it are the issues of life. We pray thus in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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Tuesday Evening.

HOLY SPIRIT, it is Thine to enable the souls of men to discern spiritual things. It is Thine to awaken in the soul a sense of the need of such things. To Thee only can we look to give light to the understanding, truth and fidelity to the conscience, feeling to the heart, and to cause minds that are of the earth earthy to have their treasure in heaven, and their affections there. O God the Holy Ghost, may this regenerating work, this new birth of the soul, have its place in us. Help us to see that to be devoid of it must be to be shut out from heaven. Help us to see that without it heaven could be no heaven to us.

We pray Thee, heavenly Father, that we may not only partake of this change, but that it may be a growth within us, and not cease to be such until it is perfected. Blessed Redeemer, intercede for us, that the Holy Spirit may so dwell with us that we may not resist His influences, that we may not grieve Him by our unteachableness, our perverseness, our sin. Help us so to understand what it is to be the temples of the Holy Ghost, that sin in those who profess to be Christians may be in our eyes exceedingly sinful. O Thou often wronged, often grieved, often offended Spirit, we implore Thee not to leave us. To be left by Thee is to be lost, for ever lost! Make us to see the evil of all our sin against Thee. Make us to be truly penitent on account of it. Give us power to be more entirely Thine. May it be more and more our nature, day by

day, to love what is lovely in Thy sight, to loathe what we know to be to Thee impure. May this witness of our having believed on the Son of God be strong within us.

And we would magnify Thee, O Lord, for all that we are required to believe concerning Thy Son Jesus Christ. We adore Thee that the mission on which Thou didst send Him into this sinful world was an errand of mercy—to save and not to destroy. O Lord, help us to realize more of the love of goodness as we meditate on this great work of goodness. Forbid, O Lord, that our professed love to Thee for this Thy love to us should be a thing of words, a matter of custom, a cant, a sin. Make it real, O God, if it be not such. If it be sincere, make it, we beseech Thee, to be more so—more deep, more fervent, more habitual, more fruitful.

Far from any of us be the guilt of turning away from this marvellous light, and choosing darkness in its stead. May we be able to give evidence that we are of the truth by coming to the light, and show that our deeds are wrought in Thee—in Thy fear and love.

Listen to this, our evening prayer, we beseech Thee. As a household may we be of one spirit. May we feed on the same bread from heaven. May we be cheered by the same wine of the kingdom. We implore this for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

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Wednesday Morning.

BLESSED LORD, we thank Thee that Thou hast permitted us to rise this morning in health and vigour. We have slept in peace, for Thou hast made us dwell in safety. Thou *hast* been mindful of us, and Thou *wilt* bless us. We can rest in Thy promises, and go forth to our various engagements with the assurance that Thou wilt defend and guide and prosper us; for Thou hast said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Thou hast adopted us into Thy family. Thou hast called us, not servants, but sons. O Father, what manner of love hast Thou bestowed on us that we should be called the sons of God! Help us to rejoice in this Thy love; help us to prize and improve this our privilege. May we feel and act as Thy children. Give us perfect confidence in all Thine arrangements; and whether they bring us immediate sorrow or joy may we accept them with thankfulness. Grant us to love Thee with trustful, filial love; to seek Thy face with all earnestness; and to find true satisfaction in Thy favour. May we be able to say without reserve, "Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none on earth that I desire in comparison with Thee." Help us to yield Thee willing obedience, to run in the way of Thy commandments, and to serve Thee with joyful hearts. Help us to take a growing interest in whatever concerns Thy kingdom or Thyself. May we love Thy word and honour Thy Church, and declare Thy truth

and celebrate Thy name. May we be pleased with whatever pleases Thee, and hate whatever grieves or offends Thee. May we, through communion with Thee, become more and more like Thee, and be prepared by the discipline and instruction of earth for our Father's house in heaven.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to bless Thy people everywhere. May they remember that they are Thy spiritual family, the children of the living God. May they seek to act worthily of their high relationship. May they walk in love, and cleave to each other as brethren. May they exhibit uniform purity and consistency of character, and so honour that holy name by which they are called.

Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee to bless all those to whom we are united by relationship or friendship. May they belong to the household of faith. May they be able to feel that they have a Father in heaven who loveth them. May they cherish the spirit of obedience to Thee, and confidence in Thee. May they be holy and happy, as becometh Thy children.

Grant us Thy presence and blessing in the active duties of this day. Strengthen us for labour, give us wisdom in counsel. May we feel that success depends on Thee; and may we desire Thine approbation and Thine help in all that we undertake. May we remember that Thy blessing alone maketh rich and addeth no sorrow therewith. Father, may we, Thy children, enjoy this blessing, and now and always

acknowledge Thine hand in whatever we possess. Hear us, we beseech Thee, and comfort our hearts by Thy Spirit, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening.

ALMIGHTY Father, we draw near to Thee this evening, deeply impressed with Thy great goodness. Thou hast placed us in this world as our home. Thou hast provided us with all things that are necessary for our life and well-being. Thou makest the sun to shine and all nature to rejoice in its light. Thou gladdenest the eye with beauty and the ear with melody. Thou visitest the earth and waterest it; Thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water; Thou preparest corn when Thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: Thou settlest the furrows thereof: Thou makest it soft with showers: Thou blessest the springing thereof: Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and Thy paths drop fatness. All Thy creatures wait on Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thine hand and suppliest the wants of every living thing. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

And Thou, O Lord, dost bless us in our occupation and work. Thou dost give us the ability to execute our daily task; Thou dost grant us favour with our

fellow-men, so that we reap the reward of our industry. Thou dost enable us to find pleasure in our toil, and willingly to accept it as our heritage. We acknowledge that whatever we accomplish is by Thy help, and that without Thee we can do nothing. We go forth in the morning, not knowing what shall befal us, but assured that Thou wilt be with us and determine our lot; and in the evening we look back on everything we have completed as Thy work, and give all the praise to Thee. We are strong only in Thy strength, and we succeed only through Thine assistance. Still bless, O Lord, our substance, and accept the work of our hands.

We have indeed reason, O God, to adore the wonders of Thy providence. Thou dost order all things for the good of Thy creatures—all things for our good. Thy stores are inexhaustible, and Thou dost dispense them with a wise and liberal hand. Thou dost replenish the springs of life; Thou dost supply the air we breathe and the food we eat; Thou dost use the powers of nature to sustain, and not to destroy us; Thou dost fence us round with Thy presence, and dost comfort us on every side. O God, when we think how vast, how boundless is the sphere in which Thou workest, how numerous and complicated are the agencies which Thou usest, how tender and delicate the objects which Thou guardest and nourishest, and how surely Thou dost attain the ends of Thine all-embracing providence,—we are overpowered with a sense of Thy greatness and goodness! O Lord God

of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto Thee, or to Thy faithfulness round about Thee?

We know indeed, O Lord, that this world, which Thou didst declare to be very good, has been blighted by sin; and that Thy gifts are often abused and perverted, so as to become the means of evil rather than of good; but we rejoice that our blessed Lord and Saviour hath redeemed us from the curse by His precious blood, hath delivered the earth from the dominion of the wicked one, and that now every creature of God is good, if it be received with thanksgiving. Thou givest us richly all things to enjoy. Father, help us to trace all our mercies to Thy hand, and to enjoy them all in Thee. Great has been Thy love to us through this day; unceasing has been Thy care. And now, with thankful hearts, we commend ourselves and all our household to Thy gracious keeping, praying Thee to watch over us during the night, and refresh us by our sleep, that we may be prepared to serve Thee with renewed diligence and strength. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thursday Morning.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we give Thee thanks for all Thy goodness to us and to all men. Thy compassions fail not. Thy mercy endureth for ever. Thou hast watched over us during the hours of darkness, and no harm has come upon us.

We have risen in health and strength and peace this morning, and though we know not what may happen to us this day, we are never troubled, for Thou wilt be with us all the day long, and wilt bountifully bless us.

But we acknowledge with sorrow and humiliation that though we are sure that Thou wilt not forget us, we are afraid that we may forget Thee. Our hearts are inconstant. Our strongest purposes are soon broken. We resolve to keep Thy commandments, and yet are easily tempted to sin. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to Thy lovingkindness. Strengthen our weakness, that we may not grieve Thee by our wrong-doing. Shelter us from temptation. Reveal to us Thy majesty and Thy glory, that we may fear to break Thy law; reveal to us Thy laws, that we may long to obey them. Who knoweth the power of Thine anger? Lord, suffer us not to provoke it. Who knoweth the blessedness of abiding in Thy love? Lord keep us to abide in it.

May we be taught of the Holy Ghost what Thy will is. Give us understanding that we may keep Thy commandments. While we ask Thee to keep us, to stand fast in the liberty of Christ, we ask Thee to reveal to us Thy will concerning the way in which our lives should be ordered. Thy service is perfect freedom, for Thou dost write Thy laws upon the hearts of those who love Thee.

And now, O God, we commend ourselves to Thy strong and merciful keeping. Thou lovest us better

than we love ourselves, and wilt not suffer any one to touch us. Or, if through our own folly and waywardness in times past, or through the ignorance or sins of other men, evil should come upon us this day, Thou wilt compel it to minister to our good. Fire and heat, and the stormy waves fulfil Thy word; and Thou canst cause all calamity and suffering to bless, instead of their harming those who put their trust in Thee.

Forgive us now, O God, and grant unto us, and to all whom we love, the healthful Spirit of Thy grace, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Thursday Evening.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we adore Thee with reverence and with devout fear, with gratitude and with great joy. For the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us, Thou hast preserved us through all the unknown perils of this day, and hast enriched us with innumerable blessings. But for Him we could have had no happiness in this life, and no glory in the life to come.

We thank Thee for all that we know about Him. The memory of His gracious words and deeds has not passed away; and we thank Thee that we read in our own tongue the wonderful story of His life and death. We thank Thee for all that is told us of His gentleness and of His anger, for the words of compassion and pity spoken to the poor, the ignorant, the suffering,

and the penitent, and for His terrible denunciations of the proud, the hypocritical, and the selfish. We thank Thee that Thou hast had recorded for our consolation, His miracles of mercy. Help us to remember when we see the hungry, how Christ multiplied the loaves that the hungry might have bread; and when we see sickness and blindness, how He gave healing and sight. May the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. Like Him, may we go about doing good.

Above all, we thank Thee that He died for us, and that He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for our sins only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We thank Thee for the peace and rest of heart which have come to us through His sacrifice. We bless Thee for the eagerness of the Good Shepherd, in coming to seek and to save that which was lost; and for the love which moved Him to give His life for the sheep. Again, we pray Thee to grant that the same mind may be in us that was in Him. Forgive us that though He cares so much for the salvation of men, we care so little. May we remember that if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. Awaken within us a deeper solicitude for the rescue of all men from eternal death. Help us so to strive by word and deed to save men, that when we stand before Christ's judgment-seat, we may be able to give a good account of the words which have been spoken, and the deeds which have been done in the body.

Defend us from all danger this night. May we sleep in peace. Keep all those who are dear to us

from harm. May we and they abide in Thee for ever. For Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Friday Morning.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts to Thee, for we desire to begin the day with Thy blessing. Thou hast renewed our strength by sleep: oh that Thou wouldst revive our souls by Thy Holy Spirit, that so we may be ready for every service which may demand our thought.

We mourn before Thee that our nature has been enfeebled by transgression—that we execute every good work with effort, and without effort yield to sin. We have, indeed, lost Thy glorious image, and are not worthy to be called Thy children. Our best resolutions are liable to be broken: when we would do good, evil is present with us. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness, according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold us with Thy free Spirit. O pardon us and accept us for Jesus' sake.

We rejoice and give thanks that when we had fallen away from Thee, and had lost both the disposition and the power to serve Thee, Thy well-beloved Son came down to us, that He might bring us back to Thee again. We rejoice that He condescended to become Son of man, that He might constitute us

sons of God. Oh that we may receive more and more of His grace, that thereby we may, like Him, live only to glorify Thee.

O Father, we pray Thee to teach us effectually that our true honour is in holiness of character and active devotedness to Thy service; that our true happiness is in fellowship with Thee. O incline our hearts to Thy ways, dispose us to walk with Thee and labour for Thee, that so our tastes may be purified, and we may be brought into perfect accord with Thee. O let not the glittering pleasures of the world, or the attractions of earthly wealth or honour, draw our thoughts and affections from Thee; but may Thy grace enable us to pierce the veil and behold the glories of the heavenly world, and may the hope that this will be our final inheritance wean us from the endeavour to seek our portion in this life. Grant that whatever Thou dost appoint as our present lot, we may receive it with submission and thankfulness, and strive so to use it as to obtain increased preparation for the heavenly blessedness. May we feel that every situation affords an opportunity for the cultivation of Christian character and the performance of Christian duty, and may we diligently employ ours for these exalted ends. Oh that we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not things eternal.

Holy Father, we humbly pray that all those who are dear to us may be Thine. May they be redeemed by Thy grace, and made heirs of Thy glory. While they labour for the meat that perisheth, may they

still more diligently labour for that which endureth unto everlasting life. May they find in Jesus the living bread. Coming to Him, may they never hunger; believing in Him, may they never thirst.

O Lord, our God, we beseech Thee to be with us through the whole of this day, and cause whatever we do to prosper. May we live and act under the abiding impression of Thy presence, and shrink from everything that would be displeasing to Thee. In all the works we undertake for our own profit, may we serve Thee; and in serving Thee, may we find that we effectually benefit ourselves. May we gain more and more of that mind which was in Christ Jesus, and become more and more fitted for the heavenly rest. Father, hear our prayer, and grant our requests, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Friday Evening

O LORD, our gracious God, grant us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may now lift up our hearts to Thee. Thou hast upheld us through another day. Thou hast delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. Thou hast bountifully supplied all our wants and crowned us with lovingkindness and tender mercy. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward us? We will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

Help us, O God, by Thy heavenly grace, to love Thee with all our soul and strength and mind. May we not divide our affections between the world and Thee. May we feel that we cannot serve God and mammon. Oh reveal to us so fully the glories of Thy character and the blessedness of Thy salvation, that we may give our hearts to Thee alone.

Save us, we humbly pray Thee, from distrust of Thy grace and love. Deliver us from all apprehension of Thy displeasure, all doubt of Thy willingness to save and to bless us. Grant us so deep an insight into Thy great provision of mercy, that we may be able to rest in it perfectly, and feel that there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Thus may we be saved from that tormenting fear which drives the soul from Thee, and enjoy that holy confidence which will keep us true to Thee for ever.

We confess, indeed, O God, that we are weak, and that Satan and the world are strong. We acknowledge that we are not proof against the temptations of the wicked one or the charms of earthly things. For we are conscious of an inward struggle, which divides our power: we find a law in our members warring against the law of our mind, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin and death. We feel that if we rely on ourselves, we are in danger of yielding to the enemy and losing our portion in Thee. But Thou canst make us true and faithful: Thou canst prevent our treacherous hearts from deserting Thee. O

strengthen us with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man. O bind us to Thee by the cords of Thy love and the attractions of Thy holiness. O help us to cleave to Thee with full purpose of heart.

Father, we pray Thee to bless Thy Church. Let the strifes which separate those who profess to love Thee be all healed, and may Thy people be one in Christ. May their only contention be which shall excel in holiness; which shall achieve most in the promotion of Thy kingdom. May they remember that they are one family, and truly love as brethren.

Gracious God, before we lie down to rest, help us to look back on the day that is past, and, as we observe the failures and imperfections of which we have been guilty, to repair anew to that fountain which is opened for sin and uncleanness, and there to obtain forgiveness and renewing grace. Oh, if we have been unfaithful to Thee, or for a moment have felt tempted to forsake Thy service, blot out the remembrance of this our weakness and folly, and impart to us that true love which never faileth.

Keep all the members of this household in Thy faith and fear, and let them be Thine for ever.

Hear these our prayers, we beseech Thee, and grant us Thy peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Saturday Morning.

MOST Holy and most merciful God, who art the life and the light, the strength and the joy of all who put their trust in Thee; we desire to thank Thee for all the blessings Thou hast conferred upon mankind through Christ Jesus our Lord. We thank Thee that Thou hast already received a great multitude that no man can number, into eternal joy and glory; that for Christ's sake Thou hast forgiven them all the sins they committed while they were in this world; and that now they dwell with Thee and Thine angels, and are beyond the reach of temptation and of trouble for evermore. We thank Thee for all who are still surrounded by the perils and snares of this mortal life, to whom Thou hast granted Thy Holy Spirit, who have peace with Thee, and rejoice in hope of Thy glory. May we and all who are dear to us receive Thy great salvation.

Deliver all whom we love from the guilt and danger of rejecting Thy mercy. May they see that if they reject Christ, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, but a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation. Save them from the agony and despair of hearing the Lord Jesus say to them, "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." May they all escape that second death from which there is no resurrection.

Sanctify us by Thy truth and Thy Spirit. May we abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which

is good. May the new life which comes from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit subdue and transform our whole nature. Help us to trust in every promise which Thou hast given for our consolation and joy, and to keep all Thy commandments.

We entreat Thee to abide with us through this day. May we learn the blessed secret which Thou hast taught to all saintly souls: the secret of overcoming the world through perfect union with Thyself. Whatever Thy grace accomplished for prophets, apostles, and martyrs, may it accomplish for us. May the supernatural light and peace, and strength and gladness, which Thou didst confer upon them, be conferred upon us too.

Have mercy upon all our fellow-countrymen who are living in crime; upon all little children who are uncared for and untaught; upon all who are born to a life of wretchedness and poverty. Show us how we may do our part towards lessening the suffering and ignorance and wickedness which prevail around us.

Bless the queen and her children, and all who have political authority in this land. May we be governed wisely and justly. May our laws be in harmony with Thine, and may all ranks and conditions of men among us love and fear Thee.

Hear us for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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Saturday Evening.

MOST Holy and most merciful God, we give Thee thanks that Thou hast brought us in safety through all the perils of another week. And whether Thou hast led us through green pastures and beside still waters, or along rough and rocky paths, we bless Thee that Thou hast not forsaken us, nor hast Thou suffered us to wander altogether beyond the hearing of Thy voice or the reach of Thy protecting hand. We began the week with Thee, and with Thee we close it.

Now that the day of rest and fellowship with Thyself is near, help us to escape from all that has irritated, vexed, and excited us as the week has been passing by. Give us Thy peace. May we cast our care upon Thee, that we may be at liberty to rejoice in the vision of Thy face, and to worship Thee with reverence and devout fear. Let not the transient disappointments, or the transient triumphs of our common life be permitted to come between our hearts and Thyself. May we die unto the world to-night, and rise to a new and divine life in the morning.

We entreat Thee to let Thy Spirit rest on all those with whom we shall meet for worship. Prepare them for the great duty and the great blessedness to which they will be called. To-night, before they sleep, may such thoughts of Thyself come to them as shall make them earnestly long to see Thy glory. If any of them have never yet repented of their sin, reveal to

them, we entreat, their sad estate, their guilt, and their peril, and grant them true repentance.

Let all the Christian work which shall be done to-morrow be done devoutly and zealously, wisely and hopefully; and may vast numbers of our race who shall lie down to-night with their sins unforgiven and their hearts unrenewed, obtain forgiveness and eternal life before the coming day of rest shall close. May the world be nearer to Thee to-morrow night than it is now.

We ask Thee to grant Thy good Spirit to Thy servant from whom we shall receive instruction in Christian truth and duty. May we be conscious that the words which we hear from his lips come first from Thee.

Have us in Thy strong and merciful keeping to-night. Forgive all the sins we have committed during the week. Forgive the sins of all whom we love. For Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Fifth Week.—Sunday Morning.

EVER blessed God, who art the light and the joy of the glorified in heaven and of the redeemed on earth, we approach Thy throne with adoration and thanksgiving this morning. Thou hast created all things by the word of Thy power, and Thy wisdom and Thy love are manifest in all the works of Thy hands. This day we celebrate the perfection of Thy

creative goodness. When Thou hadst prepared the earth for the human race, Thou didst make man in Thine own image, as a priest to minister before Thee in the beautiful temple of this material world. When all things were finished, behold, O Lord, they were very good. We would glorify Thee as their Maker and preserver. And help us also devoutly to recollect that new and better creation which Thou hast sent Thy blessed Son to accomplish by His mediation and truth and Spirit—that creation by which fallen beings are created anew in Christ Jesus, and which will at last include the restoration of our natural bodies. Of this Thou hast given assurance unto all men in that Thou hast raised Him from the dead.

We thank Thee that Thou dost give us to see the opening of this day of rest, with all its holy memories, all its joyous hopes. We love Thy Sabbaths, heavenly Father, sweet and cheering and happy seasons are they. Bright spots of time, to us the pledges and foretastes of the purity, repose, devotion, and joy of that everlasting keeping of Sabbath which remains for Thy people. We bless Thee for having watched over us during the night, and raised us up in health, and for giving us some measure of sympathy with Thy Church in its sanctified enjoyment of these days of heaven on earth. Help us now to worship Thee, to hold communion with Thee through Jesus Christ Thy Son, to pour forth the affections of our hearts at the family altar, to catch the spirit of Thy gospel, to open our souls to the entrance of the Holy Spirit

within us, that so we may be prepared for those sacred services by which we hope to consecrate the hours of this day to Thine honour and praise.

We are looking forward to join Thy people in the service of song, the offering of prayer, the reading of Scripture, the hearing of Thy word. Lord, give us a spirit of pure and deep and fervent devotion. Save us from mocking Thee with formalism and hypocrisy. Make us thoughtful, loving, grateful, and obedient. May we go to Thy house in that temper of mind which will secure for us profit and improvement from the ministration of Thy servant, who shall speak to us in Thy name: give him a message which shall come home to our consciences and our hearts. May there be a glow of holy feeling kindled in his soul for ours: and may we rejoice together in thinking of the riches of Thy redeeming love.

Bless our family. May we be of one heart and of one mind. In Thy house may we be so united in Christian worship that we may be together in Thy heavenly kingdom for evermore. Bless our friends and relations, and make them all partakers of Thy saving grace. Help all workers in Thy vineyard this day. May preachers of the gospel, teachers in Sabbath-schools, and visitors of the poor, be helped to do much good to others.

Look upon Thy Church throughout the world. Send the Spirit of union upon Thy people. May they remember that they are all one in Christ Jesus. Hasten, O Lord, the glorious day when Thy children

on earth shall be more like Thee their Father in heaven, and when the world shall be filled with truth and righteousness, with love and wisdom, with peace and happiness.

Forgive us our sins. Renew us day by day. Evermore be our strength and portion, and accept us through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sunday Evening.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, at the close of this holy day we bow down at Thy footstool. We thank Thee for its beautiful rest, for its gracious privileges, for the opportunities of worship and instruction which we have enjoyed in Thy house, for the blessed truths to which we have hearkened, for any hallowed impressions made on our minds, and for any pure affections incited in our hearts. We bless and praise Thee that our lot is cast in a Christian land, and that we have liberty to wait upon Thee in public as well as in private. We would think of our fathers who endured so much persecution; and as we contrast our circumstances with theirs, we ask Thee to impress us deeply with a sense of our superior advantages and our larger responsibilities. So dispose us, and guide us, by Thy grace, into a due improvement of our religious opportunities, that the constancy, the endurance, and the faith of the suffering Church, in days

of old, may not condemn us, when we stand before the throne in judgment.

Suffer us not to forget the instructions which we have received. We know how treacherous are our hearts; and how often, after we have listened to Thy word, we have been as men who behold their natural face in a glass, and go away forgetting what manner of men they were. The returning secular employments of the week have effaced from our minds, again and again, the remembrance of our Sabbath convictions and resolutions. Oh forgive us this our great offence: have mercy on our forgetfulness, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Pardon, too, all the wanderings of our thoughts, and all the insensibility of our feelings, and all the infirmities of our nature; and pour upon us Thy Holy Spirit that during this week we may continue to live in the constant recollection of Thy gospel and Thy grace; of the confessions we have made; the prayers we have offered; the desires we have expressed; and the good resolutions we have recorded in the midst of Thy Church this Lord's-day.

Bless all our fellow-worshippers. Let Thy favour rest on those with whom we have been holding fellowship. Make them what we wish to be ourselves, wise and good, holy and devout, strong to resist temptation, and ever ready to do Thy will. Have mercy upon those who have long been careless. Let solemn thoughts be awakened in them this night. Make the appeals and exhortations of the Christian ministry effectual to their conversion; prevent them from

lying down to sleep with hardened hearts. Lord, remember for good our beloved pastor. Follow with Thy benediction his faithful labours amongst us. Return into his own bosom a thousand-fold the blessings he has sought for us in his intercessions, and offered to us in his ministry.

Now take us all into Thy care. Hold us in Thine arms as we slumber. May we meditate on Thee in the night watches, and wake in the morning rejoicing in Thine unchangeable care and love. We ask it through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Monday Morning.

GREAT GOD, Thou didst reveal Thyself in Thy majesty to Thy ancient people, and didst teach the holy men among them to stand in awe of Thee. But Thou didst reveal to them, along with Thy greatness, Thy goodness and Thy mercy. So they could trust in Thee, and love Thee. So their souls were often made to thirst for Thee, their flesh to long for Thee, as if in a dry and thirsty land where no water is. They coveted beyond all things to behold Thy power and Thy glory as they had seen them in the sanctuary, for to them Thy loving-kindness was better than life; therefore with their lips they would praise Thee.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of light and sanctity, come into our souls, as Thou didst come to them. Fill us, we

beseech Thee, with the same high thoughts of God and awaken in us the same holy aspirations. May our sense of His greatness fill us with a godly fear. May our sense of His love and grace prompt us to prayer and praise. May we be able so to remember His goodness that we may rejoice under the shadow of His wings; and when in times of trial our souls shall follow hard after Him, may we know that His right hand is near to uphold us.

May our love of Thy name, O Lord, make us zealous for Thy honour. From this feeling may we be led to desire and to pray that our own nation may be a nation truly for Thee, and that all nations may be Thine. From the heart we would pray—"God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations: let the people praise Thee, O God, let all the people praise Thee."

We adore Thee, O God, for the power of Thy truth thus to lift man above the selfishness of his nature. We adore Thee for the light and influence by which Thy servants are thus made to care, not for their own merely, but for the honour of Thy name, for the welfare of their country, and for the interests of humanity everywhere. Make us, we beseech Thee, to partake largely of this habit of soul. We lament the selfishness which still has place within us. Our zeal for Thy glory is cold compared with what it should be. Our care for the well-being of others is

light compared with what we ought to carry about with us. Pardon, we pray Thee, these shortcomings. May the saving health of the gospel be more powerful within us. May this stubborn malady, this sickness of the soul, this selfishness which sin has lodged within us, be so removed day by day, that we may look forward with confidence to the day when we shall be perfect.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the shadow of Thy wings under which we have dwelt safely through another night. May Thy hand be with us through the day before us. We ask this thing, and all things, in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Monday Evening.

RIGHTEOUS art Thou, O Lord. Thou art so known to the host of heaven, where all are righteous. Thou art so known on the earth, where all are sinners, far gone from original righteousness. We know that as the Judge of all the earth it will be Thine to do right.

To all men Thou hast given some talent, some power of usefulness, and Thou hast made this power, whether great or small, the measure of their duty. We acknowledge it just, O Lord, that it should be so—that where much has been given much should be expected.

Help us, we beseech Thee, to see clearly what our

talent really is—what the means of honouring Thee which Thou hast entrusted to us really are. Make us honest and wise in seeking to know this. Sad, O Lord, are the disclosures which come before us as we so do. How much that we might have been have we failed to be! How much that we might have done have we failed to do! How much there has been in our heart and in our ways contrary to Thy will, and which we should have known how to put away from us! Truly we have left undone much that we should have done, and have done much that we ought not to have done. We are before Thee as those who have offended against law, and as those who have made light of the Gospel.

Hear us, O Lord, as we make this confession of our sin. Pardon our want of conformity to Thy will. Pardon the opposition of our nature and of our ways to Thy nature and to Thy ways. Help us to see ourselves in this respect as we really are, to be humbled and penitent, and to be more earnest in looking to Thee for the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may become more faithful to our obligations. In the world, in the church, in the family, may we see plainly what we *might* have been for Thee, and therefore *ought* to have been. May we never fail of doing the little we may do because it is little. If we have but one talent, may it not be hid, but be faithfully used.

Good hast Thou been in surrounding us with influences adapted to ensure that our spiritual progress

should be a reality—a reality to ourselves and to others. But Thou knowest, O Lord, how much there is that we should have unlearnt long since, and how much that we should have learnt. Thou knowest the tempers within us that should have been more subdued. Thou knowest the aspirations within us that should have been more pure, more ardent. Show us, O Lord, the talents for which we are responsible, and make us more faithful to ourselves, and to all men.

Heavenly Father, we have another day's imperfection and sin to confess before Thee. Save us from making this acknowledgment without feeling it. Make us to know, not only the peace of pardon, but the peace of penitence. We covet power to repent of sin—to be free from sin. Grant us this power, O Lord, for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

Tuesday Morning.

O LORD, Thou art truly great—great in power, great in wisdom, great in goodness. The heavens, the work of Thy fingers, and the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, constantly make this proclamation of Thee. So on earth also, the works of Thy hands, all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beast of the field, the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the sea, declare Thy thoughts to us, show to us Thy

skill and power. Marvellous truly are Thy works, both great and small. Wonderful has been the action of Thy fingers upon them. Here Thou hast done all things well—elaborately well—and hast admonished us therein to be careful that whatever we do may be well done.

We bless Thee, especially, for the creation of the last and greatest of Thy works on earth—the creation of man. We bless Thee for the high place assigned to him at the first; that, made only a little lower than the angels, he was crowned with glory and honour, and made to have dominion over the works of Thy hands. We confess before Thee the weakness of our common nature, in that it did not retain that its first estate. Help us, we beseech Thee, to judge rightly as to what we are by reason of that first transgression. Help us to understand how it came to pass that by one man's offence many became sinners. May Thy Holy Spirit be our teacher in these things.

We adore Thee for the assurance, that if by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, by the obedience of one many may be made righteous. We magnify Thee that we know Him who was made a little lower than the angels that He might die for us, and who in virtue of His great work for man has been crowned with a brighter glory and a greater honour than adorned the state of the first man. We rejoice that Thy glory as revealed in Him is ascended above the heavens, and will ever call forth the praise of the hosts that dwell there.

May we learn, as we contemplate His great work, how to rise above the fear of death, seeing that He has tasted death for every man. May we learn through Him how to attain to the forgiveness of sin, and to a place with sanctified natures. Knowing that Thy redeemed ones are to see Him as He is, and to be like Him, may we be stimulated to live a more Christ-like life. May we covet above all things a meetness for that better paradise into which He has passed, and which can never be lost. May the dominion of that world be ours—the perfect reign of perfect goodness.

O Thou who givest the moon to rule the night and the sun to rule the day, give us Thy blessing through this day which Thou hast made. We pray for this, as we pray for every good from Thee, through the merits of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Tuesday Evening.

HEAVENLY Father, whose power and righteousness and love are infinite, we Thine unworthy servants, Thy sinful creatures, would approach Thy holy footstool. When we think of Thy purity and perfection, and of our own impurity, evil, and guiltiness, we are afraid. Thy law condemns us. Our consciences condemn us. The example of Thy holy saints condemn us. Especially do we feel self-condemned when we ponder the teaching of the Divine and blessed Jesus. But with the invitations of the

gospel before us, with its promises in our memories, with the assurance of Thy love through the all-sufficient Redeemer touching our hearts, we would take comfort, and speak to Thee with confidence. According to the pitifulness of Thy great mercy loose us from our sins, O Lord. Break the chains of our condemnation. Deliver us from the bonds of corruption. We pray for pardon and peace. More earnestly still would we pray for purity, righteousness, and love. We trust we do sincerely desire to be made holy. Deepen Thou this desire within us. If there be any delusion in our minds on this subject, do Thou dispel it. When this desire grows weak do Thou renew and strengthen it. May the purpose of our wills follow this holy impulse of our affections. Incline us, O Lord—give us strength, O Lord,—to put forth the most earnest endeavours after true righteousness. May we hunger and thirst after righteousness. May we be filled with righteousness. May we understand fully and perfectly by experience, what it is to have the Lord as our righteousness.

Help us to carry in our hearts, day by day, this desire, and to fight against all the tempers, passions, and inclinations contrary to it. May we lie down to-night thinking of the supreme command which Thou hast given us, "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

Thou hast been very good to us again this day—preserving our lives, and our health, and our possessions, and our comforts. They are Thy gifts, and we hold them every moment through Thy sustaining

providence. Draw our souls closer to Thee, and with more child-like confidence may we trust to Thee. Bless our beloved family. Make our children and servants partakers of Thy grace, through Jesus Christ. Are any of them careless about their souls, and indifferent to Thy love, and heedless of gospel invitations and warnings, be pleased to arrest them by Thy victorious grace, and subdue their wills, and make them obedient to the faith. Look on our relations, friends, and neighbours. Manifold are their wants. Manifold also are Thy mercies. Father of spirits, fold them all in Thine arms. Save us from supposing that we can love them more than Thou lovest them. We would love them, because of Thy love. Make Thy servants more zealous and active in doing good. We have many means of usefulness supplied us in these days. Help us to be faithful to our privileges and diligent in the use of all opportunities of serving Thee. Hear our prayers and save us, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Wednesday Morning.

O LORD God, our heavenly Father; we would begin this new day, with a sacrifice of praise, with a pleading of prayer—acknowledging the manifold mercies that have been continued to us, and asking Thee for all things needful for our holy and useful life to-day. We are glad and strong for the work of our

life only in Thee. Thou hast again filled the world with the rejoicing light of the sun : so fill our hearts with the glad light of the Sun of righteousness, that we may walk all day in the light of Thy countenance.

We come to Thee, as we ever come, through the great Mediator, our faithful and merciful High-Priest, who has made atonement for our sins, and who in the fulness and tenderness of His human sympathies makes intercession for us. We feel confidence and joy in thus coming to Thee through this new and living way. May our life be hid with Christ in God. May the life that we live in the flesh be a life of faith on the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us. We speak to Thee the words of our desire. We tell Thee all that we fear and feel, all our wishes and all our hopes, because we know that Thou art full of compassion and that Thou hast tender mercies for us.

Thou dost invite us sinful men to come to Thee that we may be sanctified from our sin, and made holy like Thyself. Thou wouldst make us partakers of Thy divine nature, and thus deliver us from our sins and sorrows. May we thus be children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Thou wouldst gather us to Thyself that we may no longer feel the helplessness and sorrow of alienation. Thou wouldst gladden us with the light and warmth of Thy love, and with the constant strength and blessing which Thy love will minister. O help us to come to Thee as children come to a father, as those who are needy come to the source of abundant blessing. Let the desire of

our heart be to Thee. Let the eye of our faith be clear, the hand of our faith be strong, that we may ever realize Thee, and such blessings from Thee as may enrich our lives with sanctity, strength, and comfort.

Sanctify the strength of the young, the activities of the busy, and the rest and feebleness of the aged; so may our home be blessed—our family life be a holy and a blessed thing to us. Help us to rule our spirits so that every word and feeling shall be gracious, and to consecrate the influence that affection gives us, so that in all things we shall be helpers of each other's joy. As parents, may we be wise, holy, and tender. As children, may we be obedient, ingenuous, and trustful. As masters, may we be considerate and kind. As servants, may we be faithful and unselfish. May the beauty of holiness adorn all our family relationships. May the blessed presence of Christ be here as He was with the family of Bethany,—our Divine teacher, at whose feet we may sit, our Divine comforter, in whose love we may find sympathy even in our greatest sorrows. Thou art the God of the families of the earth: may all the members of our family be Thine; in Thee may all families be blessed. May the loving Saviour again take the little ones into His arms and bless them, that we may be found at last whole families in heaven. We ask it for the sake of Him whose we are and whom we serve. *Amen.*

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Wednesday Evening.

O LORD God, who causest the day to shine brightly upon us that we may go forth to our work until the evening; and then causest the darkness to descend that we may rest from our toil and recruit our wearied frames: Thou givest us before we sleep calm hours of leisure, in which we may gather up the dissipated forces of our life, in which our thoughts may be quiet, and the holy and healing blessings of domestic love and of friendship be enjoyed: in which we may commune with our own hearts and be still, and draw near to Thee in reverent contemplation and loving worship. Let our hearts be filled with a sense of Thy goodness, in all the mercies of the active day; the blessings that have enriched it, the care that has guarded it, the strength of body and of thought that has enabled the discharge of its duties; and the degree of holy feeling that has sanctified all its experiences. Thy great love and patience have spared us in it, and have given us exemption from the severer and even the lesser sorrows of human lives. Upon some, the sun of the morning rose very brightly, but the day has brought anguish, and now at eventime it is dark with them, dark in their houses, dark in their hearts. Do Thou, O Lord, be to such a gracious light. But we have been preserved from sorrow; we are unconscious of change. Thy mercies have been continued. No good thing hast Thou withheld. Our necessities have been anticipated by Thy preventing

goodness. Every function of life has gone on, and every ministry of life has been gracious. And now that it is eventide, Thou dost abide with us, and in the assurance of Thy love our hearts rest. Accept our sacrifice of thanksgiving in this calm hour of rest. We kneel and thank Thee, the Lord of our life, the giver of all our good. We thank Thee for all the memories of the busy day, so far as we have striven to serve Thee. Accept the service of our common things, and help us ever to sanctify it with purposes and meanings of worship. Forgive all work that has been separated from thoughts of Thee and from the holy principles of a spiritual life: all our godlessness, our selfishness, our sin. Let the experiences of every day teach us lessons of Divine wisdom; most of all, our failures and falls, that we may be more humble, more watchful, more consecrated; until we have learned to serve Thee in all things; to put the great principles and feelings of religious life into the least duties and the most casual tempers of our life: so that whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we shall do all to Thy glory.

We thank Thee for all the associations and suggestions of holy thought and feeling which this closing hour of the day brings with it. The day of our life is rapidly passing; may its evening hour be calm and restful, and holy and blessed with the light of Thy presence. Let the night bring no terrors to us. Thou never slumberest nor sleepest. Mercifully be our keeper, and protect us from fire and thieves, from sickness and

death, and from every other ill. Thou givest Thy beloved sleep; let sleep visit our eyes, and rest refresh our frames; may we repose in the darkness as under the shadow of Thy wing; and when we awake may we be still with Thee. These blessings we ask also for all dear relatives and friends, for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

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Thursday Morning.

GRACIOUS GOD, wonderful is the providence which is in Thy hand. To us Thy way is often in the deep, and Thy footsteps are not known. Often dost Thou hide Thy purpose from man. Often dost Thou bring blessing upon us by means which seem to be against us.

May the records of Thy dealings with Thy servants in the old time be profitable to us. We thank Thee for them. We know that they are written for our learning; that through the power of such Scriptures to strengthen patience, we might find comfort and hope. Even yet, Thou dost often lead Thy children through dark and crooked ways. Help us to feel that it is with Thee to make the darkness light, and the crooked straight. When our faith is thus tried, may it endure. May we know how to wait until the end shall come. We see that even the wrath of man may be made to do Thy will, and that the remainder of wrath may be restrained. We thank Thee for the revealings of

purposes long concealed which come to us in this life; and we would trust Thee for such as may be reserved to have a place in the revelations of the future. Even when our best deeds bring upon us our greatest troubles, may it be given us to hold fast our integrity. Good art Thou, O God, and faithful to all who truly serve Thee.

We are taught by Thy word, O Lord, that the family is of Thee. The relations of husband and wife, of parent and child, of brother with brother, and of sister with sister, are of Thee. The affections, too, proper to those relations are in us from Thee. Forbid that we should ever offend against them. Forbid that we should allow anything to suppress them. Above all, may they never become hatred. May we ever see the reasonableness and beauty of such affections, and cherish them watchfully and fervently. May the home happiness to which they were designed to minister be largely ours.

May the redeemed family of God, the spiritual family whose sons and daughters are of all nations and peoples and tongues, be largely multiplied. O Lord, we remember Him who came from Thy bosom to us, and who said that whosoever should do Thy will should be to Him as brother and sister and mother. May we all know what those endearing spiritual relationships mean. From the heart would we say, Grace be with all them who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. May we all be of that household of faith which shall meet in the house

not made with hands. May we all be of that family which shall meet at last around Thy throne.

We thank Thee for the rest of the night. We pray for Thy blessing through the day, and seek all we need through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Thursday Evening.

GREAT GOD, all majesty is Thine. The heavens and the earth are Thine. The sun, the moon, the stars, are Thine. Thou hast clothed them with the light they shed through space, and upon the earth, the same now as in ages long, long past. Thou hast given bounds to the great and wide sea, saying, Here shall thy proud waves be stayed. Thou hast said to the earth, Be fruitful, be full of riches and beauty; and it is so. And truly Thy words of grace and mercy sent to men do drop as the rain, do distil as the dew. Truly Thou art a rock; Thy work is perfect; a God of truth and without iniquity; just and right art Thou.

But wilt Thou indeed dwell with man upon the earth? Wilt Thou be mindful of him? We thank Thee that we have answers to these questions. Thou art our Father, for we are the work of Thy hands, and when we had spiritually destroyed ourselves Thou hast redeemed us to Thyself by His precious blood who died for us upon the cross. We bless Thee that through His mediation Thy dealings with us have been so fraught with long-suffering and goodness. As

the eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, and beareth them on her wings, that they may be taught to fly and to live; so, O God, dost Thou condescend to teach, and train, and discipline Thy children. More than father or mother art Thou to those who trust in Thee. Help us, O Lord, to call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless Thy holy name, in that Thou hast thus redeemed our life from destruction, and crowned us with loving-kindness and tender mercy.

We confess before Thee that duty should be happiness to all Thy creatures. To man above all should it so be, because of the mercy and the surpassing grace with which Thou hast visited him. We feel that we should be humbled—deeply penitent, as we consider what we should have been before Thee, and remember what we have been. We beseech Thee not to enter into judgment with us. May it please Thee, O God, to quicken us to a higher life. We pray Thee so to visit us as a family,—so to visit all the families of Thy people; and have pity also, we implore Thee, on a world dead in trespasses and sins. May the Christians in the world become more truly Christian, and their influence for good become greater day by day. Cause true believers to become more as lights to the world, and as salt to the earth. Everywhere, may sin be more checked by the presence of goodness, and may the good join more hand in hand to strengthen the cause of truth and goodness.

We thank Thee for Thy care of us through another

night. Pardon our sins, and hold us up in Thy goings this day. We ask it for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Friday Morning.

O LORD GOD Almighty, the everlasting and the ever blessed One, Thou art the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and of all things which they contain. The sun and the moon and the stars, Thou hast ordained. Thou makest them to know the time of their rising and the time of their going down. And above the visible skies there are pure, holy, beautiful creatures, of whom we read in the word of Revelation, who excel in power, and who do Thy will; and their existence and attributes proclaim Thy glory as the universal Creator. All things upon this earth, fair or magnificent, to be employed for our use, or to be looked at for our instruction or pleasure, are fashioned by Thine almighty hand. Mountains and valleys, fields and forests, rivers and seas, all are wonderful works wrought by Thee, and all proclaim the glory of Him who made them. Help us to remember, and with adoring praise to acknowledge, that Thou dost infinitely exceed—in might and wisdom, in beauty and glory, in love and all excellence—whatever exists on the earth, whatever may be found in the heavens. We are the works of Thy hands; Thou dost fashion our bodies; Thou hast breathed into each of us a

living soul. Our ability to think and feel, to move and act, to assist our fellow-beings, and to worship Thee comes of the inspiration of Thy Spirit. Oh help us to live as those who owe Thee everything, and to glorify Thy wondrous name day by day, in all we do or say or think.

Thou art the preserver of all things. May we never forget that by the word of Thy power Thou upholdest us in existence. In Thee we live and move and have our being. Through another night Thou hast watched over us: we laid down and slept, we awaked, for the Lord sustained us. All our possessions and comforts are Thy gifts. Our dwelling, our food, our clothing, all things that make life agreeable and pleasant are proofs of Thy munificence. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all, and in Thine hand is power and might, and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. We praise Thee for all the bounties of providence; and pray that we may never repine at the afflictions and troubles which Thou seest fit to send. Thou hast taught us that this life is a state of discipline, that whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. We need correction and reproof; we deserve the rod; whatever may be the dispensation of Thy righteous and loving will, do Thou enable us to submit; and from our hearts to say, It is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth good in His sight. Help us to improve all we have, to use this world as not abusing it, to do good, and com-

municate, and not to forget that with such sacrifices Thou art well pleased. Help us to resign all into Thy hands, even the most cherished objects of our affections; and should they be taken from us, may we more than ever rejoice in Thee, as the abiding, the unchangeable, the everlasting good.

Thou hast redeemed us by the gift of Thy Son. Thou didst send Him into the world to save sinners. To the blessings of creation and providence Thou hast added the still more wonderful blessings of Thy restoring grace. We thank Thee for the revelation of pardon, adoption, holiness, and peace. Help us to meditate much on the great truth, that Jesus Christ is made unto us of God, wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. We desire, O Lord, to receive Him into our hearts, with all the fulness of His saving mercy. And what we ask for ourselves we ask for others—for our family, our friends, our fellow-countrymen, and our fellow-creatures. Whatever of real good we fail to supplicate for others or ourselves, O Lord, do Thou in the abundance of Thy mercy bestow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday Evening.

THY thoughts, O Lord, are not our thoughts, and Thy ways are not our ways. The visible and the invisible are alike seen by Thee. The present and the future are alike near to Thee. Whence events

come to pass, and whither they tend, Thou knowest as we cannot know. Help us, O Thou Most High, to remember these facts intelligently, devoutly, submissively. Such knowledge is too high for us, we cannot attain unto it. It is too deep for us, we cannot sound it. The measure thereof is wider than the earth, and broader than the sea.

We adore Thee, O God, for the assurance that this knowledge is allied with wisdom and power and goodness, not less wonderful. Thou hast made us capable of so regarding Thee. Thou hast made us capable of looking up to Thee in reverence, in love and in trustfulness, as so revealed to us. And Thou art the God of truth. Thou canst not lie. In what Thy creating hand has thus done upon us Thou hast not deceived us. No, Lord, the perfections we are compelled to ascribe to Thee must be Thine. And all the ways of Thy providence must be worthy of Thyself, though the end of Thy dealings with us may be to us past finding out. So, O Lord, Thou didst speak to men by the mouth of Thy holy prophets. So Thou hast spoken to us in these later days by Thy Son Jesus Christ.

We pray, therefore, O God, that we may not be envious of the foolish, that we may not be disturbed by the prosperity of the wicked. Should we see that often they are not troubled as other men; that they are not plagued like other men; that pride compasseth them about: that they speak loftily concerning oppression; that their strength is firm, and that there

are no bands in their death; still, O Lord, may it be far from us to say, Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain. Help us ever to feel, that though hand join in hand, it cannot be well with the wicked. For surely they move in slippery places; they are brought low as in a moment, their lot is to be utterly consumed with terrors.

Gracious God, help us to look wisely on these aspects of Thy providence. In the face of such mysteries we beseech Thee to hold us up by Thy hand. Help us to say with Thy servant, "Nevertheless I am continually with Thee. Thou shalt guide me by Thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory." May it be given us to feel as Thy servant did when he said, "Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

Thou makest the day dark with night, but Thou canst shine into the soul. Pity our evil heart of unbelief, and heal it. We beseech this grace, and all grace, through the atonement and mediation of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Saturday Morning.

LORD GOD Omnipotent, we adore Thee as the only true God. Wonderful is Thy wisdom as to be seen in Thy works, and as sought out of all

those that have pleasure therein. The earth, indeed, is full of Thy riches. Marvellous are the provisions which Thou hast there made to supply the wants, and to minister to the enjoyments, of Thy creatures. The heavens drop fatness, and the earth teems with fruitfulness, that all living creatures may be fed, and so continue to live. For man Thou hast done more—for him Thou hast robed the earth in grandeur and in beauty, that he might learn to gaze upon it, to wonder, and adore. Wonderful, O God, are those secret powers by which Thou dost give to the earth its stability, its order, and its fitness to the great ends it is to serve. These are mysterious to us; so high that we cannot attain unto them, so deep that we cannot descend to them.

Save us, we beseech Thee, as we remember this, from ever attempting to make our intelligence the measure of Thine. May the contemplation of Thy knowledge help us to see our own ignorance. May the manifestation of Thy perfections in nature and providence produce in us a just sense of our own littleness and nothingness. What, O God, can we know, compared with Thy knowledge? What can we do, compared with what Thou doest? Truly we might be crushed like the moth—we are as dust and ashes in Thy sight.

But more—much more, O God, are we amazed when we try to know what is included in sin and holiness, to comprehend the mysteries of good and evil. Here also Thou knowest all things. May we be willing to

learn from Thee. May we believe sin to be what Thy word declares it to be. May we believe that what it has done upon our nature is what that word affirms it to have done. We confess, O Lord, that Thou alone knowest our case as it is, and that Thou alone canst minister to it effectually. Thou art the one Physician, by whose healing power we may be made whole. We feel that we can know that we are safe only as Thy word shall assure us of our safety.

Hear us then, O God, as we pray Thee to enrich us with that knowledge which makes Thy children wise—wise unto salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. May we see our guilt, and the necessity of the atonement by which alone it can be removed. May we feel our sinfulness, and our need of Thy truth, and of the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be renewed in the spirit of our mind. May we grow day by day in such experiences. We confess, O God, that the fear of Thee is wisdom, and that to depart from evil that is understanding.

Accept our morning sacrifice as we now present it to Thee—we beseech it for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Saturday Evening.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, much hast Thou done to show to us the greatness of Thy power and wisdom. More hast Thou done to show to us the greatness of Thy love and mercy. Thou hast so loved

the world as to give Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We call upon our souls to bless Thee for Thine unspeakable gift. We magnify Thee that of Thine abundant grace Thou hast begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. We hail, O Lord, with gratitude and joy, the life and immortality thus brought to light.

If manifold temptations and griefs now sometimes press upon us, may we be able to harken to the apostolic admonition which bids us remember that these things come that the trial of our faith—a faith much more precious than gold that perisheth, though the trial be as by fire, may be found to end in praise and honour and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ. May we know more, Lord, of what is meant by loving an unseen Saviour. May we know how to rejoice in Him, though we see Him not, with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

We adore Thee, Heavenly Father, for all that prophets have spoken concerning the salvation which Thou hast provided for men. We thank Thee that while they understood their own prophesies but very imperfectly, what was obscure to them has been made plain to us. We thank Thee for the exposition of what was written by prophets, which has come to us through the fuller inspiration of the apostles.

Great, O, Lord, are the privileges which Thou hast

had in store for us from of old. Assist us, we beseech Thee, to prize them as we ought, and to use them as we ought. Truly it behoves us to gird up the loins of our mind, to be sober, and to hope unto the end for the grace that shall be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. May we see plainly the manner of persons we ought to be as being partakers of such a calling. May we leave it to the men of the world to think only of this life. May our faith and sympathies bring us into such nearness to a much higher life, that we shall here feel as strangers and pilgrims on the way to their home, their better country. May the love of Christ, and the love of His, have full possession of our hearts. May the things which perish be seen by us in their true contrast with Thy word, which endureth for ever.

Time has numbered another day with the past. Eternity is nearer. Give to our souls, Lord, a better preparation for it. We pray thus in His name whom Thou hearest always. *Amen.*

Sixth Week.—Sunday Morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the earth is Thine, for Thou hast made it. The heavens are also Thine, for Thou hast called them into being. We adore Thy goodness in not choosing to dwell alone; in creating all material things, the earth and heavens, and clothing them with order and beauty; in giving existence to

living creatures with their means of enjoyment—the fish of the sea, the beast of the fields, and the fowl of the air. Above all, we adore Thee for creating man, in Thine own image, with dominion over the earth, and over all that have life upon it. These have been Thy ways from of old. But Thou art before all things —before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. We bow before the eternity of Thy nature. We cannot search Thee out unto perfection. We thank Thee for what we may know of Thee, and would be happy in that knowledge.

But we have to humble ourselves before Thee as we remember that man being in honour did not abide, that he fell through the wiles of the tempter. Our race has become guilty, depraved—so lost that in Thee only is our help. We thank Thee for that first promise which assures us that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head, and for all Thou hast done in later times to make the meaning of that promise clear to us. May the suffering Saviour thus set forth from the beginning, and proclaimed to us so fully, be our Saviour. May we know His power to confer pardon of sin, peace of conscience, and to bring back to the soul of man the image of Thyself. May it be given us to remember that Thy precious promises have been made to us to this end, that we might be partakers of a Divine nature. Help us, therefore, O Lord, by Thy truth and Spirit, to put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and to

put on the new man, which after Thine own image is created in righteousness and true holiness.

May all pertaining to this family and household be so taught of Thee. May we all be reconciled to Thee through the sacrifice of the cross. May we all so confide in Thee as to partake of the spirit of Thy children, and to know the power of the gospel to give to the soul rest and hope and gladness. May right affections towards Thyself beget in us right affections towards all men. May duty become perfect freedom. May afflictions be among our blessings. And may the good we seek for ourselves come largely upon all men.

May it please Thee, O Lord, to be with us this day. We bless Thee for the day of rest. May our exercises in worship, and our hours of thoughtfulness, bring us nearer to Thee, and into a greater meetness for the Sabbath of the skies. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sunday Evening.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, who hast given us the rest of this day, to remind us of Thine own rest when the great creative work, described in Thy blessed word, was completed. We thank Thee for all the mercies with which Thou hast abundantly enriched us. Thou givest rest to the souls of men; and for any measure of spiritual calmness and peace

and joy vouchsafed to us in Thy house and at Thy footstool, we desire to be grateful. We have been reminded again of the resurrection from the dead of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of His glorious ascension to Thy right hand; and of the coming and perpetual presence of the Holy Ghost the Comforter; and if these truths have touched our affections and drawn our hearts up to Thee and moved our wills towards Thy service with increased steadfastness and decision, to Thy name be the praise for evermore.

Thou knowest the hearts of all who are kneeling before Thee this moment. If any have been careless hearers of the word—if they have been as men beholding their natural face in a glass and going away have forgotten what manner of men they were; if their hearts have been hard as the stony ground; if the cares of this world have choked the good seed and made it unfruitful; if temptation has taken away the truth which was sown,—have mercy upon them. Cause a deep sense of their responsibility to come over their consciences and awaken within them convictions of sin. May they see how they have sinned against light and love, and how very, very, great is the guilt of those who trifle with salvation, with the blood of Christ, the strivings of the Spirit, the appeals of Thy word, and the visitations of Thy mercy. O humble them, we beseech Thee, at Thy footstool, and send them all the spirit of repentance and faith and love, that they may look on Him whom they have pierced, and mourn—that they may cry for mercy through Him who died

for them—and that with a new heart and a right spirit they may turn to Thee as the Lord of their life, the guide of their way, and the Saviour of their souls.

We would think of the whole Israel of God this night. Multitudes have been worshipping Thee this day. Whilst many may have been doing so only in form, we rejoice in the thought that many also have done so in spirit and in truth. Under various forms and rites, in connection with different modes of Church government and discipline, they have come to Thee, the one God, through the one mediator, Jesus Christ, having enjoyed the baptism of the one Spirit, having received the gift of the one salvation, and being inspired with the hope of the one everlasting home above. Blessed thought! We love to cherish it! May we enter into the communion of saints as we enjoy the remission of sins. Thy Church is one,—in spite of manifold varieties of creed and worship and spiritual life. Oh cause us more and more to believe in this unity, to rejoice in this unity, and to promote the expression of this unity.

Merciful God, watch over us again to-night as Thou hast often done. When the slumbers and rest we ask at Thy hands are once more past, may not the lessons taught us this day pass from our memories and our hearts. Lord, write them upon our souls, and make us epistles of Christ, known and read of all men.

We beseech Thee to hear us for the sake of the mediation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

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Monday Morning.

O MOST gracious God, we bless Thee for not leaving us to a bewildering and agonizing search after Thee through the wonders of Thy creation, or the mysteries of Thy providence. Thou fountain of life and hope and gladness to Thy creatures, we adore Thee for the revelation of Thyself to us through Jesus Christ. We magnify Thee as we remember that though creation is but Thy shadow, we have in Thee, O Lord, a Father, and that the poorest and feeblest of our race are not forgotten by Thee. Thou hast made our souls capable of knowing Thee, and of sending out thoughts through infinity and eternity. Thou hast made us capable of adoring Thee, of loving Thee, of trusting in Thee, and Thou hast encouraged us so to look to Thee. We find that we are guilty and depraved, and we loathe ourselves deeply for this cause; but Thou, O God, hast had pity on us while thus low, and in the full foresight of what we are, hast sent Thy Son to remove our guilt by dying for us, and Thy Spirit to make us holy by dwelling in us. God—great God—words with which to express our wonder at Thy ways we have not. We bend the knee and bow the head before Thee, and beseech Thee to accept, through Christ, the silent offering of our heart, of our whole being, to Thy service.

With this return of morning may there be a new morning light shed upon us. May a morning fresh-

ness be given to our faith and hope, and to the motives that should strengthen us for all duty. Thou givest us great privileges; oh grant unto Thy servants a deeper sense of responsibility. May we who now bow the knee before Thee have consciences enlightened and made faithful by the teaching and power of Thy Holy Spirit. Truly Thou hast been mindful of us. Thou hast constrained good men in past time to do much to insure to us our present privileges; Thou hast constrained good men in our time to task their capabilities as teachers for our benefit. Great is the obligation to serve Thee which Thou hast laid upon us. May we ever feel its weight.

O Lord, Thou knowest us altogether—whether young and cherishing the visions of youth, or old and needing the thoughtfulness of age; whether passing through light or darkness,—nothing pertaining to us is veiled from Thee. And Thou alone art equal to our wants. Be, we beseech Thee, our sufficiency.

Through the watchings of the night and morning Thou hast kept us, and we have enjoyed another day of rest, another day on which Thy people met to declare their interest in each other, and their allegiance to Thee. We thank Thee for holy memories and impressions; may they abide. Where Thy name has been recorded, there command the blessing, even life for evermore. Make Thy chosen people joyful. Win souls to Thyself. Bless us in this day's duties. Save us amidst this day's temptations. Hear us in these things for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Monday Evening.

ASSIST us, O God, to ponder the words of the Saviour, when He says, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me. Give us, O Lord, to see that Christ has come, not merely to show us a way of return to Thee, but to be Himself that way; that He has come, not merely to teach us the truth we need to know, but to be that truth; and that to Him it belongs, not merely to impart spiritual life, but to be its fountain and security to all who shall possess it.

Spirit of God, compassionate our weakness. Be our teacher, that these words may become light to our understanding, and a saving power to our hearts. May we know, O Father, how to come to Thee through the atonement and intercession of Jesus so as to be accepted. May we receive the truth from His lips so as to be governed by it. May the life which He imparts be ours—ours to be nurtured by Him, as the vine sends nourishment to the branches, and to be made perfect and everlasting by Him.

We thank Thee, O God, for the assurance that to see Jesus is to see Thyself. We thank Thee that His words are Thy words, that His works are Thy works done by Him. And help us, we beseech Thee, ever to remember that to reject Him is to reject Thee.

Blessed Saviour, Thou hast proclaimed Thyself the light of the world, and Thou hast said that whosoever believeth in Thee shall not abide in darkness. Lord,

we believe, help Thou our unbelief. We would not abide in darkness. We would dwell in the light, and walk in the light. May the true light, the knowledge of Thy truth, be bright within us. May we apprehend that truth in what it teaches concerning ourselves—our guilt, and sin, and need of the redemption there is through Thy Cross. May we apprehend what it teaches concerning Thy nature and person and offices. May we apprehend, also, what it teaches concerning the work of the Holy Spirit. May this truth, O Christ, be in us, not only to save us from error, but to save us from sin. May we know its power to arm us against the falsehoods of the world, its power to bring our hearts more and more into the obedience of faith.

Heavenly Father, we have come to the close of another day. With us another day's work is done. It has been light compared with what often came upon Him who went about doing good. Pardon the faults of this day, and be our keeper through the night. We offer this, our evening supplication, in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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Tuesday Morning.

GREAT, O Lord, is the privilege to be called sons of God. Great the happiness of being taught to fear Thee, and to serve Thee in the sight of those who serve Thee not. But may we ever remember that good men are imperfect, and that the

most guarded souls need to pray often, Lead me not into temptation. Too often have the hearts of such been seduced from Thee by evil association, and by near relationships with such as have no real sympathy with Divine realities. We beseech Thee to shield the children of the faith against all such influences. Suffer them not to be drawn into fellowships that may impair their sense of Thy claims upon them, and that may cause them to draw back into perdition, instead of believing to the saving of the soul.

We pray Thee to watch over the families that call upon Thy name. May they consist more and more of such as shall be heirs together of the grace of life. May the ties of nature among them be hallowed by all the happiest influences of Thy heavenly grace, giving tenderness to their affections, elevation to their thoughts, and training them through all the natural relationships of earth for the Divine relationships of heaven. Forbid that any measure of worldly success or renown should be regarded by them as a sufficient compensation for the loss of faith, and of the holy habit of the soul which is of great price in Thy sight.

We lament as we think of the ungodliness which covers the earth. Great, O Lord, was Thy forbearance in old time. Long did Thy Spirit strive with man, inviting and warning him. Forbid, O Lord, that our hearts should be thus estranged from Thee, and thus perverse. Forbid that we should thus resist Thy merciful visitations to our souls, lest the imagina-

tion of the thought of our heart be left to become evil only, and that continually, and vengeance, though long suspended, at last fall upon us. Save us, O Lord, from the deceitfulness, and from this progressive power, of sin. May we be alive to the first approach of danger. May we not tempt Thee by our folly, our rashness, to leave us to ourselves. May the desire of our souls be towards Thee, and through Thy strength may we stand in the evil day, and through Thine infinite mercy may we stand accepted at the last day.

We desire, O Lord, to see what sin is in Thy sight, and we would be reminded how revelation brings near to us, not only Thy goodness, but Thy severity. May it be given to us to be faithful to Thee. If needs be, amidst the scorning of the scorners, may we be unabashed, steadfast, counting it all honour to suffer reproach for Thy name.

In this spirit may we go forth to the duties of this day. Hear us, O Lord, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Tuesday Evening.

O LORD, Thou hast created the heart of man, Thou hast a right to it; it is Thine own. Thou givest to man all the outward things possible to him in this life. All that he is, he is from Thee. All that he has, he has from Thee. Surely it is fitting that his deepest reverence should be a reverence for

Thee; that his most ardent love should be a love of Thee; that his most grateful feeling should be an offering to Thee. May we be enlightened enough to see that such are Thy claims upon us. May we feel that if summoned to part with all for Thee, to do so must be duty, and should be happiness. We bless Thee, O Father, that our knowledge of Thee is a knowledge of Thee as revealed to us through Christ. Help us to see the power of Thy love to make Thy children happy with the possessions of this world or without them.

We know, O God, that it is Thy pleasure that there should be rich and poor in this world. May the rich be guarded against trusting in uncertain riches. May they be guarded against expecting from riches what riches can never give. May they covet to be spiritually rich; rich towards Thee, rich in the dispositions which shall fit them for the happiness of heaven when they have done with earth.

And we beseech Thee, O Lord, to save us all from supposing that it is only those who possess much of this world who are in danger of loving it much. Help us to remember that this world-worship is the sin besetting us all. May the poorest know their danger in this respect in common with the richest. May we all know how to value the good of the present world as we ought; how to use it as we ought; how to rise above it as we ought.

Thou, O Lord, canst teach us this lesson. There is a joy of soul that may come from Thee which no

stream of good Thou hast created can impart. Help us to ponder the words: Every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life. May we believe this, and in this faith be strong.

After the manner of our blessed Lord, we would not slight moral worth, wherever we see it. With us, as a family, may all natural affection be pure and strong. Suffer nothing, we beseech Thee, to repress or chill the generous feeling by which we should be bound to each other. But may we be strong in the dispositions which shall make us at last a family in heaven. Make our wealth or poverty, our successes or failures, our joy or grief, alike tributary to that end.

Look upon us mercifully as we thus come to Thee at the close of another day. Thou knowest how much we always need this mercy. We remember Thy long-suffering and graciousness, and beseech Thee to protect and bless us, unworthy as we are, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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Wednesday Morning.

O THOU who art the infinite and ever-living God, our little lives are in Thy sight as nothing, except as they stand in the light of Thy

mercy, which magnifies itself in Thy regard of that which is insignificant and unworthy. From the beginning, or ever the earth was, Thou wert; and when all things that we see shall be no more, and our little lives shall have been lived, Thou wilt still be the ever-living God. We have neither might nor excellence nor duration; we bow therefore in lowliest worship before the majesty of Thine eternal glory.

Help us to order our worship, our prayers, and our lives as becometh creatures such as we are. Help us to speak to Thee reverently, to look to Thee with humility, to live before Thee conscious of our dependence upon Thy mercy. May we think of Thine eternal years, of Thine almighty power, of Thy manifold providence, of Thy wonderful love and grace. It is the comfort of our little life that Thou dost compass it and sustain it. It is the hope of our unworthiness that Thou dost graciously pity and abundantly pardon. Thou knowest its beginning, its course, and its end. Thou dost subject it to all the experiences that befal it. Thou dost lift and glorify it by taking it up into Thyself. O Thou gracious and eternal God, may this be our conscious experience of life; may we feel that our life is hid with Christ in God; that our days, which are so transient upon the earth, are nevertheless precious in Thy sight, because Thou dost endow them with Thine own life, and work out great issues in them—Thou dost make us partakers of Thine own nature.

In all solemnity and joy we would thus lift our

thoughts and wants to Thee this morning. When we slept, the world, by Thy power, was being rolled into darkness; and we invoked Thy protection in the unconsciousness and helplessness of sleep. Now that we awake, the world has been rolled again into the light; we renew our active life through the gates of the morning; and we ask Thee to keep our souls as well as our bodies—our thoughts and wills and affections, as well as the mere mechanism of our physical life. Many as are our physical perils, our spiritual perils are still more; we need the teaching and the controling grace of Thy good Spirit, that our thoughts may be intelligent with the light of Thy truth, our hearts holy and loving with the inspirations of Thy love; and our active energies, our desires, our will, our strength consecrated in the consciousness of Thy constant presence. We do not ask for special employment in religious things: Thou hast given us our daily work of life to do, our industry to ply, our bread to win, our duties as citizens to discharge. We ask Thee that the common service of life may be reverent in our sight; that we may think of it as a means of our greatest religious service and benefit. May we clearly set before ourselves the great opportunity this service gives us of glorifying Thee, and of disciplining our spiritual souls by the maintenance of righteous principles and religious tempers in all things, by our resistance to temptation and to selfishness. May we, in our buying and selling, so look upon the things of others that our integrity and brotherly love may be

seen by the most careless. In our daily occupations may men take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus, that the springs of our life are in Him, and that in daily communion with Him we renew our strength and realize the grace that makes all things His service. Help us to keep our hearts with all diligence; and when the toils and cares and occupations of the day are ended, may we feel a grace and peace as of Sabbath worship, and that we have seen Thy power and glory in the world even as we have often seen them in the sanctuary. Forgive our sins. Renew to us the fresh and perfect assurance of Thy love. Let our morning meal be to us a sacrament in which our grateful consecration shall respond to Thy renewed grace, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening.

O LORD our God, our merciful Father! It is a pleasant and a blessed thing to turn to Thee from the crowded and worldly ways of our life; and to find in Thee thoughts that elevate and inspirations that sanctify us. We might walk all day in the light of Thy countenance, set Thee always before us; and in the morning we purpose and pray to do this; but the world is too much for us, temptation is too strong, because our own hearts are worldly and weak; and when the day closes, we feel that the world has been too much with us, and that our spiritual life has

become colder and more feeble; and we are glad and thankful thus to seek Thee in the evening hour, liberated from the worldly pressure of the day, and removed from its stronger temptations. If we have failed to realize Thee in the dusty paths of life, may we have a great and holy sense of Thy presence in our evening rest. May we, in our tents at the close of the day, find Thee a sanctuary in which our souls can take refuge, and realize restoration and rest. Teach us the meanings of the day. Help us to look back upon what it has brought and upon what we have been, with an understanding to which in its actual experience we did not attain. May we realize its wrong doings, for which we now humbly ask Thy mercy, and set a more vigilant watch at the door of our lips and of our hearts. May our failures and falls make us humble in our self-esteem, diffident in our self-condfience, prayerful and dependent in our clinging to Thee.

How gracious and patient Thou art, bearing with our forgetfulness and irresolution and worldliness and selfishness. Thy love never wearies; and when we come to Thee disappointed with the husks that we try to eat, and wearied with the far country into which we have wandered, Thou dost welcome us with a generous and forgetting joy. We are penitent before Thee; not as fearing Thy forsaking, but assured of Thy forgiveness; we sorrow most of all because we sin against a love so great that we cannot doubt its forgiveness—there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be

feared. And we speak to Thee, not as strangers whom Thou hast cast off, or whom Thou dost not know, but as children who cannot wrong Thy Fatherhood by doubting it. As a Father Thou pitiest us, knowing our frame. And when we seek to be more worthy of Thy love, when we yearn for better feelings, and pray for greater strength, Thou hast joy over us more than over just persons who need no repentance. We remember the mercies of the day, its manifold care and provision and protection, the thousand tokens of Thy love in things that have ministered to our comfort as well as to our necessity. Thou hast prevented us with the blessings of Thy goodness. May all our future days be lived more wisely and nobly and tenderly, because of the experiences of this. For our household mercies we thank Thee; for our children, gathered together as in a fold; for those who faithfully and kindly serve us; for all the tender and blessed affections and ministries of home. Thou takest the solitary and settest them in families. Thou art the God of all the families of the earth.

Let the night bring no terrors. Draw Thou the curtains of our bed, and give Thy beloved sleep; and, oh, be gracious and tender in Thy conscious presence with those who shall watch anxiously, or weep sorrowfully, or moan in sleepless pain. And where the angel of death comes with the darkness of the night, be Thou a light of hope, a stay of strength, a Saviour and comforter, the resurrection and the life; so that to those who die, the morning may be the dawning

day of a blessed and eternal joy. We ask it for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

Thursday Morning.

O LORD, we know that Thou rulest over all the works of Thy hands. Thou givest law to all as Thou givest being to all. It is by Thy decree that the day and the night, the winter and the summer, become to us what they are. Everywhere and always Thou art saying to the things which Thou hast made, Come, and they come; Go, and they go. Man only is disobedient. He only resisteth Thy will. But Thou knowest his heart. Thou canst search it as he cannot search it. Thou canst move it as he cannot move it. We bless Thee that in the early times of the world, when the imagination of man's heart had become so evil, Thou didst send gracious influences into his soul, so as to reserve to Thyself a people who should serve Thee. And we especially bless Thee for his call to Thyself, who was to become a father to the faithful, Thy friend, and in whom all the families of the earth were to be blessed.

We, O Lord, would be children of faithful Abraham. We would, like him, be obedient to Thy voice. Like him, we would go, content not to know whither, so that the path before us may be before us according to Thy purpose. But we need not tell Thee how often we have been wanting in this trust; how often we

have hearkened to our own wisdom when our ear should have been open only to Thy voice; and how often the desires of our own selfish hearts have been more welcome to us than the word which has come declaring Thy will concerning us.

Hear us, O Lord, as we pray Thee to pardon this infirmity, this guilty infirmity. Help us to feel assured that none can know our true interest as Thou knowest it. Help us to see clearly that none can provide for us as Thou canst provide, and that none can be so disposed to do us good as Thou art. Leave us not, we beseech Thee, unto ourselves. Deliver us from evil, from within and without, as Thou alone canst deliver.

We rejoice that Thy promise can never fail—that Thy word abideth faithful. Make Thy truth more powerful where it is. Send it speedily where it is not. The ends of the earth do see Thy salvation. Constrain them to embrace it. May that Saviour, who is the great fulfilment of the ancient promises, be seen increasingly by us and by all men as the hope of humanity. To His Cross may we look and find peace. In His life may we see what goodness is, be attracted by it, and become more like it day by day.

By Thy good providence we see the light of another day. Be with us to guard us from evil until its close. We beseech this, and all things, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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Thursday Evening.

HOLY, holy, holy, art Thou, Lord God Almighty. Angels veil their faces before Thy glory—before the awful purity of Thy nature. The heavens are not clean in Thy sight. Thou art of purer eyes than to look on iniquity. Where then, O Lord, is hope for man, lost to spiritual purity, with a heart deceitful above all things and desperately wicked?

We deplore, O God, this unnatural state of man, and this unnatural relation to Thee by reason of it. Through sin his nature has become unnatural, and his relation to Thee has become unnatural. It has wrought a severance between creature and Creator; between man and Thyself, his Maker. Help us, O Lord, to see what sin has thus done, more as it is seen by Thee, that we may loathe it more, and seek more earnestly to be delivered from it.

Only by the promptings of Thine infinite compassion, and the provisions of Thine infinite wisdom, could this breach have been healed and the lost ones saved. We adore Thee for the mission of the promised Messiah, and for all that was to be accomplished by His life of purity, His life of so many griefs. We bow before His Cross, with our brow in the dust, as we witness His sufferings. Truly He was despised and rejected of men. Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. We confess that all we like sheep have gone astray, and would

worship, O Lord, in wonder, penitence, and love, as we see Thee lay upon Him the iniquities of us all.

What propitiation would be sufficient to satisfy justice, and to furnish a basis for pardon, was known only to Thyself. We thank Thee for the assurance that this propitiation is thus sufficient. We magnify Thee that through Christ Thou canst be faithful and just in forgiving men their sins, and in cleansing them from all unrighteousness.

May we who now kneel in Thy presence be among the number of those who shall be thus saved. May we see and feel that if Christ so died for us, we who live through His death should not live unto ourselves, but to Him who died for us. Show us, we beseech Thee, how this may be done in the different relations in which we are placed. Assist us, by Thy Spirit's teaching, to understand the love of Christ to souls, His joy in redeeming them, and make our mind be more His mind.

As we commit ourselves to rest for another night, may we not forget how the midnight dews fell on the loving Saviour through His many hours of solitary prayer. Pity, O Lord, the feebleness of the response of feeling with which we look on such a sight. May that vision of love and purity be so present to our faith as to move our souls to a deeper love and a deeper holiness. We beseech it for His dear sake. *Amen.*

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Friday Morning.

O GOD, our souls tell us that all excellence must be Thine. It has been Thy pleasure to create us capable of regarding all greatness and goodness as transcendent in Thee, as perfect in Thee. And Thy works, O Lord, are all truthful. As we are made to regard Thee as being all this, we believe that Thou art all this. Thy wondrous works and Thy terrible acts reveal much of Thy greatness. Good art Thou to all, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them meat in due season. Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Forbid that we should fail to mark these signs of Thy presence, and of Thy care in behalf of all Thy creatures.

But we thank Thee that we know more of Thee than is thus revealed to us. Man has desires and wants far above the animal creation. The universe of mind needs Thy presence and influence, and we bless Thee for the word through which Thou hast spoken to the souls of men, and hast made such large provision for our spiritual need. To us Thou hast revealed Thyself, not only as good and doing good, but as gracious and full of compassion; and truly while all Thy works praise Thee, Thy saints should bless Thee, and should sing of Thy righteousness while remembering Thy great mercy.

We adore Thee, O Lord, as being nigh to all who call upon Thee, to all who call upon Thee in truth.

May our approaches to Thee be at all times sincere; and hear us, we beseech Thee, when we call upon Thee. Thou hast promised to fulfil the desire of those who fear Thee. May this promise be fulfilled in us. Thy servants should speak of the glory of Thy kingdom and talk of Thy power; and should delight to make known to the sons of men Thy mighty acts and the glorious majesty of Thy kingdom. Help us, O Lord, so to apprehend Thy reign of grace and mercy, that from the fulness of our wonder and gratitude we may so do.

Hear us, O Lord, as we now seek the pardon of our sins, and the gracious influences we need. We are ever needing help from Thee; but our needs vary from stage to stage of life, and with all the changes of life. We beseech Thee to remember us at all times according to our need. Thou knowest all things—all things within us and about us, visible and invisible, present and to come, and all is subject to Thy will. The thought of this, O Lord, is a gladness to us, because we know that Thou art merciful and gracious, and that Thou hast encouraged the children of men to seek their refuge under the shadow of Thy wings.

With this new day may new light and favour come upon us. We pray thus, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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Friday Evening.

WE worship Thee, O God, as the Father of spirits. Thou hast given to the souls of men their capacity of knowing Thee, of seeing the reasonableness of Thy claims upon them, and of feeling the blessedness of being conformed to Thy will. We adore Thee that Thou hast looked on man in his present state of ignorance, delusion, and earthliness, and hast had compassion on him. We bless Thee, O Lord, for sending the seeds of truth so freely into the souls of men,—the truth which is able to make them wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

But we would be warned, O God, as we read, of the many evils about us, ever tending to counteract the design of the gospel, and to render it fruitless. Save us from these influences, we beseech Thee.

We pray that we may understand the truth we hear, and that it may have depth in our souls, so that the enemy may not be able to catch it away, and to cause the heart to be barren. May no tribulation or persecution on account of the word suffice to make us unfaithful to it. May we have grace to abide by Thy known will, whether through evil report or good report, through honour or through dishonour. May our conduct as professed disciples of Jesus Christ be the effect of rooted principle. May it be wholly uninfluenced by the frivolities of custom or fashion. Save us also, we implore, from being of those in

whom the word is choked by the overlying pressure of the cares of this world, and by the deceitfulness of riches. May we know how to cast our care upon Thee so as to learn that Thou carest for us. May we be wise to see the uncertainty and the limitation of all that worldly wealth can do, and to see the certainty and the fulness of the blessing that must come from the true riches.

Look, O God, on the souls of men everywhere, and guard and help them as we beseech Thee to guard and help our souls. Only as Thou shalt hear Thy Church when she thus prays, can it be well with the Church, or well with the world. Give patience and wisdom, O Lord, to Thy spiritual husbandmen—the ministers of Thy truth. May those of them who go forth weeping, bearing precious seed, return again with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them. May Thy faithful servants, at home and abroad, plough in hope, sow in hope, and reap in joy. In the morning may they sow their seed, in the evening may they not withhold their hand, seeing they know not which shall prosper, or whether both may not be alike good.

Pardon what Thou hast seen amiss in us through the cares and pursuits of this day, and accept us anew through the blood of the cross. We ask it for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

Saturday Morning.

O LORD, the heavens declare Thy glory, and the firmament showeth Thy handywork. The day and the night, all that is above us and around us, are ever discoursing of Thee to those who will look upon the things which Thou hast made, and will meditate upon them, and listen to Thy voice. Marvellous, O Thou Most High, is Thy power as revealed to us in the creating and the placing of worlds and systems as they are. Wonderful is the skill we see in the forms, the relations, and the influences assigned to all the parts which blend themselves together in harmony and beauty everywhere, and never end. Open our eyes, we beseech Thee, that in Thine we may see more of Thee. Touch our hearts, we pray Thee, that all the sounds of nature may be as music to us, and that all its manifestations of greatness and loveliness may call forth from within us a responsive admiration and affection. We would not be surrounded by these signs of Thine Eternal Power and Godhead and forget Thee.

But our souls magnify Thee as we remember that a word has come to us with a deeper meaning than will be found in the word of nature or in the word of providence. We adore Thee, that through Thy revealed mercy and grace we can look on all that is vast, and fair, and good in created things, and feel that the hand which has created all is our Father's hand. We thank Thee for this later—for this special word, that

has come to us as Thy perfect word, which is able to convert the soul. We bless Thee for the clearness and power of this testimony, which can give certainty to those who seek it, and make even the simple wise. We praise Thee, O Lord, that here we can learn the blessedness of the man whose sins are forgiven, and whose iniquities are covered, and whose spirit is purified from guile.

Help us, we beseech Thee, ever to feel the value of the revelation which has come to us because we are sinners, and to show us how sinners may be saved. May we know the power of this revelation to do its own work, to enlighten the eyes, to purify the soul, to rejoice the heart. For this cause may it ever be to us more than gold, yea, than much fine gold, sweeter than honey and the honeycomb. For all the signals of danger which this word has set up along the path of life we thank Thee. For all the encouragement we have to look to Thee to keep us back from presumptuous sins, and to cleanse us from secret faults, we praise Thee. Still be with us, O Lord, in all this graciousness of Thy dealings with men, through Jesus Christ.

For the quiet and rest of another night we thank Thee. May Thy light and keeping be with us through this day. We pray for all things through the merits of our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

Saturday Evening.

O LORD GOD, Thou art infinitely mighty and wise, righteous and loving. We desire to approach Thee with awe and with confidence. May we never forget Thy greatness whilst we confide in Thy mercy; never forget Thy mercy when we kneel down in lowliness before the majesty of Thine exceeding power. Thou dost welcome us to Thy footstool, although we are so utterly unworthy. Thou dost encourage us to open our hearts before Thee, and to pour into Thy gracious ear our prayers and supplications. Give us now to feel the unutterable privilege of speaking to our heavenly Father, of feeling that we are permitted to come into Thy presence, after long and distant prodigal wanderings. Truly we have departed far from Thee, and if we were dealt with according to our deserts, we should be banished for ever from Thy throne. But when we are a great way off, Thou seest us, and comest forth to meet us, and Thy thoughts towards us are thoughts of love, and not of wrath, and Thou waitest to be gracious to all who are truly sorrowful for sin.

Lord, behold us as a family who would confess their wanderings, their backslidings, their disobedience, their unfaithfulness, and their ingratitude. May the spirit of true and deep repentance be given to us, that we may see the baseness and the turpitude, the guilt and the condemnation, of our numerous and aggravated faults. For, O Lord, we have not only sinned

against our consciences, but against Thy word; not only against the law, but also against the gospel; not only against Thy commands, but against our own professions; not only against righteousness, but against love. Make us, O Lord, truly ashamed, and thoroughly penitent, and deeply humble. May sorrow for sin, and love to Thee because of Thine infinite compassion and long-suffering, fill our souls.

Thou hast given Thy Son to be a propitiation for our sins. Oh that we may come to Him by faith, and rely on His mediation. Thou hast sent the Holy Ghost into the Church to renew and sanctify and comfort the hearts of Thy people. Oh that He may enter into us—each one of us—penetrating and purifying and vivifying our fallen and corrupt and death-stricken nature. Thou who givest light to the spiritually-blind, and healing to the spiritually-sick, and life to the spiritually-dead,—may we all feel the touch of Thy mighty and merciful hand, and know what it is to experience and enjoy the restoring virtue which cometh forth from Thee.

O Lord, we thank Thee for the wonderful goodness of Thy providence during another day and another week. Still are we preserved by Thy kind and effectual care. Our health continues, our home comforts are perpetuated by Thee. We meet together to-night and close the week once more in peace. The shadow of no great trouble has fallen on us. Thanks for ever be unto Thy blessed name; and

may the love which has followed us through all the scenes of the day, and all the circumstances of the week, be with us through the watches of this night. May we lie down under Thy protection, sleep through Thy bestowment of rest, and wake refreshed by that slumber which is Thy gift and will prepare us for the holy engagements of the coming Sabbath. May earthly cares and troubles be forgotten by us, except so far as they may stimulate our devotion and furnish subject for prayer and holy meditation. All we ask is in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be everlasting praises. *Amen.*

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Seventh Week.—Sunday Morning.

MERCIFUL, O Lord, art Thou in all Thy ways —merciful to man and beast. We bless Thee for the institution of the day of rest. Thou hast doomed man to eat bread earned by the sweat of his brow. But Thou hast softened his punishment by hallowing the Sabbath-day; yea, Thou hast converted the curse into a blessing, making the toil of this mortal life a school of discipline for a blessed immortality. In the midst of judgment, O God, Thou hast remembered mercy. Out of evil Thou dost bring good. We would not be unmindful of these

Thy ways towards our race. We would meditate upon them and adore.

Help us, O Lord, to see the claims of the Sabbath as our blessed Lord saw them. We rejoice in the truth that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. May we always see it as existing, not for its own sake, but for our sake. May we use it under the influence of our Christian light and Christian liberty. May it ever be to us, not merely a day of rest, but a day of privilege and gladness. May we count it as a holy day to us only as it shall conduce to the promoting of holiness within us. May its effect on us ever be to awaken and cherish all devout and all humane feeling, bringing us ever nearer to Thee and to man. May our reverence of the sacred day be without superstition, always enlightened, and always sincere.

O Lord, we are all sinful before Thee. We confess that we can do nothing spiritually good as of ourselves. We are without strength for such service. But we adore Thee that in the word of Christ there is a power which imparts strength. We rejoice, O God, in the assurance that whatever He commands it behoves us to attempt, and that in such effort His grace may be expected to be with us, and to be sufficient for us. We are straitened indeed in ourselves, but we adore Thee for the assurance that we are not straitened in Thee.

Pardon, O God, our want of trust in Thee—our want of readiness to cast ourselves freely on Thy

promised help. In this, and in all things, we have to confess our shortcomings, our great unworthiness. Holy Spirit, often have we offended Thee, often have we grieved Thee; but leave us not, we beseech Thee. Still dwell with us, or all within us will be dark—dreary—lost!

O Lord, Thou hast given us the night, as Thou hast given us the Sabbath, for repose, and for the renewal of our strength; for the mercies of the past night we bless Thee. As we move abroad beneath the sun that rules the day, and as we gaze upon the moon and the stars that govern the night, we read in their constant laws the sight of Thy constant presence. We ask Thy gracious mindfulness of us throughout all the holy engagements before us. May we worship Thee in spirit and in truth. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Sunday Evening.

O THOU who art the Lord of the day and of the night; who hast consecrated this day for Thy special service and worship, and art now drawing round us the curtains of another night; we adore Thee as our Creator and Lord, as the one Object of Adoration and praise in heaven and in earth; and we bless Thee for all the merciful provisions which Thou hast made for our necessities.

Holy memories come over our minds as we kneel

before Thee now; memories of Thy word and will, of the great facts of our creation and redemption; memories of Christ, His incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension; and memories of the advent and mission of the Holy Ghost the Comforter. We praise Thee that from childhood we have been acquainted with these glorious gospel revelations, and that this day the impression of them has been deepened in our hearts. Beautiful and blessed are these communications of Divine knowledge. Their sweetness and power we desire to feel and experience more and more. No book can ever be to us what that book is, out of which we have this day been instructed. No news of health and wealth respecting those we love, or respecting ourselves, can be comparable to the good news of pardon, holiness, peace, and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, of which we have been hearing in Thy house.

Those precious blessings are offered to ourselves and others; and we pray that we and they may prefer them above all other good, and seek to appropriate them in larger measures through the exercise of faith and prayer, meditation and love.

May Thy word abide within us. May it dwell with us richly in all wisdom, filling our understanding, satisfying our reason, purifying our affections, guiding our wills, sanctifying our characters.

We would think of our responsibilities. Thou hast blessed us above many; and where much is given much is also required. We are stewards of the mani-

fold gifts of God; and it is required of a steward that he be found faithful. We know that the day of accounts is certain. Thou wilt judge the world in righteousness; and we shall be judged as those to whom the kingdom of God has come. It cannot be with us as with the heathen, as with the Jews, as with those whose spiritual advantages are so much less than our own. For the pardon of our past neglect we cast ourselves on the mediation of Thy Son, and the abundance of Thy mercy; and for grace to make us conscientious and diligent, consistent and exemplary, devout and zealous, obedient and useful for the time to come, we would look with trust and hope to the never-failing love of Thy Holy Spirit.

Bless those with whom we have been worshipping. Make Thy word to them life and power and salvation. Look on the careless hearers of the gospel. Touch their hearts this night with the remembrance of something which they have heard. May they feel that there is no rest for them until they rest in Thee.

Comfort Thy servant who has ministered among us this day. May he see the fruit of his labours in the conversion of souls.

And now we would lie down to sleep, thinking of the eternal Sabbath and the heavenly temple. Hear our prayers and accept our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Monday Morning.

MERCIFUL God and Father, who hast afforded us the protection of Thy hand during the night; we desire to lift up our souls to Thee in praise and thankfulness, and to devote ourselves afresh to Thy service in the prospect of a new day. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High; to show forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. May we know and magnify Thee, not only by our lips but in our lives. May our work in the world, and our intercourse with men, be so regulated by a regard to Thy will, that our secular duties may be as acceptable in Thy sight as those which belong to the closet and the sanctuary.

May we this day walk in Thy fear, remembering that Thou art ever near us,—about our path, as well as about our bed, encompassing all our ways. Resting on Thy love, through faith in Thy Son, may there be no terror to us in the thoughts of Thy presence. We would set Thee always before us, that being at our right hand we may not be greatly moved. We have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honour dwelleth; on the past day we drew near to Thee in the worship of the Church; and now we beseech Thee to go with us into the engagements of the world. Let the influence of praise and prayer, of song and sacrament, be seen in the purity of our lives. May our conversation be

such as becometh the gospel. May the thoughts and exercises, the enjoyments and resolves of the first day of the week, give an elevation and beauty to all the rest.

We pray not to be taken out of the world, but to be preserved from the evil. May we be blameless, as the sons of God; without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.

Cleanse us from secret faults; keep us back from presumptuous sins. Strengthen us if tempted, that we may successfully resist; guide us if perplexed, that in judgment or purpose we may not err. Help us so to live, day by day, that night by night we may hope for Thy fatherly forgiveness and Thy favourable acceptance of our imperfect obedience.

Bless all with whom we may this day come in contact, and preserve us from everything, in word or act, by which the weakest might be offended. Let our very unconscious and undesigned influence be always beneficial. While our hands are busy with the labour allotted to them, may our hearts be occasionally lifted up in devout aspirations, and all we do be done unto Thee through the underlying action of religious faith.

Happy are the men who fear Thee always, and who walk all the day in the light of Thy countenance. Fill us, O Lord, with this holy fear; shed upon us this Divine light. Guide us by Thy counsel, and afterwards receive us to glory. When the toils and perils of this mortal life come to an end, may we be

admitted to Thy blessed rest, through the mercy and the merit of our Redeemer and Lord, to whom be glory for ever. *Amen.*

Monday Evening.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast fixed the bounds of our habitation, and hast appointed us our work in the world; who hast given to us the day for labour and the night for rest; we desire to come to Thee as the light is departing and the darkness drawing nigh, that we may once more commit ourselves to the cover of Thy wing. Thine eye has been upon us, and Thy hand around us all the day. Thou hast blessed us in our going out and our coming in. We have been supported by Thy strength, and guided by the wisdom that cometh from above. Thou dost work in us to will and to do of Thy good pleasure. If we have this day been diligent in business; if we have put forth power to any good purpose; if we have exercised judgment and discretion in the affairs of this life,—we ascribe it to Thee from whom cometh every good and every perfect gift. We desire to bless Thee if we have been enabled to resist temptation; if we have done justly, loved mercy, walked humbly before Thee, and kept ourselves unspotted from the world. The world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Bring us, we beseech Thee, more and more into harmony with Thy will. Let Thy statutes be our delight and song; Thy service our constant joy. We confess with shame our manifold shortcomings and transgressions; we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep; we have offended and grieved Thy Holy Spirit; we have not passed through this day without sin; but we come to Thee, remembering Thy lovingkindness and tender mercies, Thy readiness to pardon, Thy willingness to forgive, Thy regard for the souls that Thou hast made, Thy desire that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Grant unto us, O Lord, true repentance for the sins of the day; pardon, we beseech Thee, all that we have ever done amiss in our past lives; take from our consciences the burden of guilt; cleanse us by Thy grace from all the defilements of the flesh and of the spirit; and help us in future to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, and to perfect holiness in Thy fear.

Accept, O Lord, the tribute of grateful praise which so many of Thy children will bring to Thee to-night; at this very moment numbers may be bowing at Thy footstool, lifting up their eyes to the place where Thine honour dwelleth, and giving Thee thanks for the mercies of the day. Take them and us and all humble and upright souls into Thy loving care; and have mercy upon such as are living in forgetfulness of Thee, regarding not the works of Thy hand, nor calling upon Thy name.

We commend to Thee all our connections, relatives, and friends. According to their varied circumstances, grant unto them Thy gracious help, Thy loving guidance, Thy mercifulness and compassion. Hear us, good Lord. In life and death be our light and joy; lead us in the way everlasting; fit us for the new heavens and the new earth in which dwelleth righteousness.

Through the merit and mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we be made meet for that world where in Thy presence there is fulness of joy, and at Thy right hand pleasures for evermore. *Amen.*

Tuesday Morning.

O LORD God of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee. We thank Thee, who livest for ever and ever, for Thy merciful care over us during the night that is past. Thou, who hast kindled the lights of heaven, neither slumberest nor sleepest. Thou tellest the number of the stars, and callest them all by their names. The night is Thine. We bless Thee for the refreshment of sleep, and for the good providence which watches over our unconscious hours. And now, O Lord God, our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning. To Thee will we look up. Great God, Father of our spirits, bless, preserve, and keep us this day. Wash us in the fountain of Thy pardoning grace. Clothe us in the

garments of righteousness. Adorn us with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, and gird us with strength for the work which is appointed for us till the going down of the sun. Shine upon our path with Thine own eternal light, and fill us with peace and joy for evermore.

Help us this day to be followers of God as dear children. Thou, O Father of mercies, lovest the stranger. May we love him, and love our neighbour as ourselves. Thou carriest the lambs in Thine arms. May our hearts go forth in tenderness to all young children, and the babes in Christ. Thou carest for the labourers and them that toil in rowing on the waves of this troublesome world. Help us to lighten, by sympathy, the burden of life to some overburdened men to-day, and to cheer the hearts of all with whom we have to do. May our presence bring solace to some that are tossed by tempest and not comforted, and assist the faith of things unseen in those who are caring too much for the things seen and temporal. Make us, O God, in all our work the servants of our Lord Jesus Christ; and teach us to look not only on our own things, but also on the things of others.

We implore Thine aid, merciful Father, against any special temptations which may be appointed for us to-day, whether in our temper, our principles, or our faith. Preserve us from haste in our footsteps. In patience may we possess our souls. May no evil power gain the advantage of us through desire of

gain or pleasure, or the wish to please Thy foes. May we be as firm as a rock in the maintenance of right, resting on Thee the Rock of ages.

Save and defend us, O Lord, we beseech Thee. Spare Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. And finally after this life bring us, with all Thy servants, to Thy eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Tuesday Evening.

O LORD, who art the rest of Thy children, and the refuge of souls, we come to Thee at the close of this day to ask Thy favour for the night. There is no rest but in Thee. Labour is sorrow, and pleasure is but vanity, without Thy Fatherly blessing. Speak favourably to us, O Lord, before we sleep, and grant us Thy peace.

We heartily thank Thee, O Lord our God, for all the enjoyments of our life, for the daily mercies by which our bodily frame is nourished and sustained, and for all the manifold delights given to the mind.

How great is Thy goodness! How many are the streams that flow from the fountain of Thine eternal love. Teach us, heavenly Father, more and more to enjoy our life in Thee, to eat our meat in gladness and singleness of heart, praising God; to trace all power, wisdom, beauty, up to Thee, the Giver; and to find delight in our labour, whether with the hand or with the understanding, as in the service of our God.

Forgive us, O Lord, all the faults, negligences, and ignorances of which we have been guilty this day. How unworthy does our life appear, even to ourselves; how much more unworthy to Thee! Blot out the thick cloud of our offences which has risen before Thee, and suffer us to behold the bright light of Thy reconciled countenance, our King and our God. We would truly amend our ways, and learn lessons of wisdom and piety from our past failures and sins. Help us to be more constant to our purposes, more sensible of Thy presence in temptation, more bent on executing Thy word and will. Teach us not only to mourn over the faults of the past, but to look forward, and to prepare our way, so that our lives may become more pleasant to Thee in our present stewardship, and our fidelity on earth approve our fitness to be entrusted with that which shall be our own beyond.

The Lord be with us this night. We commit our souls unto Thee who watchest in the pillar of fire over the tents of Israel. Blessed be the name of God for darkness and repose. O Lord, give us rest in Thee.

And when the shades of our last evening shall fall upon us, and the scenes of time shall fade away and vanish before our eyes, then, oh then, Refuge from sin and death, at the voice of Jesus may a new eternal world spread its glories around, and may we rest until the resurrection in Thine arms.

And then with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, we will laud and magnify Thy

holy name for ever, saying, Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now may the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, through Jesus Christ, for evermore. *Amen.*

Wednesday Morning.

AGAIN, O God, hast Thou opened the eyes of the morning and caused the day to visit us. And again hast Thou opened our eyes and given us joy in the light. Weary, we laid ourselves down to sleep; we awake, for Thou hast sustained us. We rejoice to find we are still with Thee. Let the light in which Thou visitest us be the way of our approach to Thee. Cheeringly Thou meetest us at the waking hour; cheerfully in our first thoughts we welcome Thy presence.

But the light of day does not reveal Thy way with us. Thou keepest Thy own secrets concerning us, and leavest us to confess that we know not what an hour may bring forth. But we are not afraid. Thou who hast caused us to sleep in peace during the night, wilt cause us to dwell in safety throughout the day, and wilt preserve us in our going out and our coming in. We rejoice that our darkness stands in Thy light; our weakness in Thy strength; our sinfulness in Thy mercy; our childhood in Thy

Fatherhood. O Thou Most High, we will dwell in Thy secret place. Under Thy shadow will we abide, O Thou who art the Almighty. Lord, Thou art our refuge and our fortress and our strong tower. O our God, in Thee will we trust. Thou art our Father, we are Thy children. We delight ourselves in Thee. How great Thou art! How good to all! And Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. All Thy works praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints bless Thee. In the multitude of our thoughts within us Thy comforts delight our souls. How precious are Thy thoughts towards us! How great is the sum of them! Thine eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to make Thyself strong on behalf of those who love Thee. We feel the strength of Thy presence, the animation of Thine eye, the encouragement of Thine approval, and with thankfulness confess the comfort of Thy nearness.

With Thee so near, our enemies will be afraid, the wicked will be ashamed, and our flesh kept in subjection. We would make proof to-day of Thy all-sufficiency, that we may rejoice in the goodness and acceptableness and perfectness of Thy will, and resolve to have no will but Thine.

We commit and commend to Thy care and favour our families, our kindred and friends, our neighbours and acquaintance, and all within the circle of our daily life. We ask for them neither poverty nor riches, but things meet and convenient. Conduct us safely through the dangers and difficulties of the day.

Bestow upon us all needful wisdom, strength, and grace for the discharge of our duties; give success to the work of our hands, and make our way prosperous. Make us contented with what Thou providest, submissive under whatever Thou permittest, and ever give us that hope that maketh not ashamed. Erect Thy throne in our hearts, that every thought may be brought into the obedience of Christ. Cause us to wear the joys and sorrows, the frowns and smiles of this world as a garment soon to be laid aside, that the inner clothing of the light of Thy Spirit may shine forth in all perfection. We beg it in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening.

O GOD, in the morning Thou didst hear our voice; to Thee we looked up and directed our prayer. From Thy presence we went forth to our work, and now that the day is far spent, and the night is nigh, we come back to Thee. Day by day Thou sendest us forth, night by night Thou biddest us return. In all generations Thou hast been our dwelling-place. How precious is Thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. Thy angels minister to us by day and encamp round about us by night. The darkness hideth not from Thee. Thou who keepest Israel neither slumberest nor sleepest.

We will lie down in peace and sleep: for Thou, Lord, only makest us to dwell in safety.

Cleanse us, O Lord, from the defilement of the day. We cast off unclean garments from our flesh: let no filthiness rest upon our spirits, no uncleanness slumber in our thoughts, no darkness hide in our affections, no unhallowed dreams disturb our slumber. Separated from all that would separate us from Thee, freed from envy, malice, and all evil, washed and clothed with white linen, the righteousness of Thy saints, we come to Thee in our spirits whilst our bodies rest in sleep. We would leave behind us everything we cannot hope to look upon with joy in the morning, whether in this world or the world above. Dead to all our trespasses and sins, we desire to lie down that we may arise with a new day in newness of life.

Call, O God, all our dear ones, those nearest and those farthest away, to rest under the covert of Thy wings. Give Thy angels charge concerning them. If our sons, or our daughters, or the members of our households have forgotten Thee, if they have wandered from Thy ways and done wickedly in Thy sight, call them to remembrance, awaken them to repentance, restore them to Thy favour, and give them, through Christ, the peace of Thy forgiving love. As unbroken families embraced in Thy covenanted mercy, let us fall into the forgetfulness of sleep, to wake again, if it please Thee, in the undisturbed memory of Thy faithful care.

O God, to how many the darkness brings no sleep! the night no rest! We pray Thee watch by the sick; comfort those who mourn; give ease to those in pain; let life triumph in those whose hour of departure has come; let the way be open and the Good Shepherd near to all who may this night enter the dark valley.

O God, as Thy dear children in Christ, we rejoice to know that our nights are numbered, that the darkness has its bounds, whilst Thy day is eternal and Thy light unmeasured; that sorrow and sighing will flee away at the lifting of the last shadows that rest upon our present life, and that we shall then for ever be with Thee the Lord. As babes in the mothers' arms we repose on Thee. O keep us, defend us, and bless us this night and for ever. *Amen.*

Thursday Morning.

HEAVENLY FATHER, at the beginning of another day we seek Thy face. Thou art our beginning; Thou alone conductest us to our end. We would begin and end all our days with Thee. From Thee our life and being renew themselves. Thou restorest our active powers.

Under the calm and freshness of the morning we assemble, and in the vigour of our unused strength pay our homage at Thy feet, and give ourselves afresh to Thee. Thine we are; Thine we would ever be. All we have is of Thee; all we have we devote

to Thee. Write Thy name upon us, Thy claim upon all we possess.

Thou art our morning light, our morning joy. The light of Thy countenance makes us glad. In Thy light we would look upon ourselves and read whose we are, whence we came, whither we go, and what Thou wouldest have us to do. From Thee we would learn to give to our life its becoming elevation of thought and feeling, of purpose and aim. Let the value at which Thou valuest us give a chastened awe to all our feelings, and keep us from every vain use of ourselves, from every vain show of life, and from all vain disquietude.

From Thee we receive our morning mercies, and give Thee thanks. From Thy presence we go forth to our labour in dependence on Thee. We would set Thee before us as our mark and aim in all our work. Be Thou our chief desire. May we wish for nothing with which we cannot receive Thee; go nowhere we cannot go with Thee; do nothing we cannot do in Thy name; enter into no bond Thou dost not bind; conclude no business without Thy sanction.

May we profit by our experience, and learn to distrust ourselves. May we avoid all temptations, especially such as, for us, are attached to certain times and places, persons and things. Help us to lay aside every weight, and watch against every easily-besetting sin, and run with patience the renewing course of our daily life, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

O Lord, help us, as those who have received Christ, to put on Christ. Invigorate our faith to bring forth virtue; and our virtue knowledge; and our knowledge temperance; and our temperance patience; and our patience godliness; and our godliness brotherly kindness; and our brotherly kindness charity, that the life of Christ in us may be clothed and worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work. Help us to leave the first principles of the doctrine of Christ and go on to the perfect life. May we, by reason of use, have our senses exercised easily and readily to discern between truth and error, good and evil. May we cultivate goodwill and kind thoughts towards all men. Let a benign disposition and a pleasing behaviour commend us. May gracious words and benevolent deeds witness of the indwelling power of the love of Christ. May our whole life and character commend the gospel of the grace of God.

Give us power with Thee, that we may have power with men; let us live in the enjoyment of Thy wisdom, that we may be wise to win souls to Christ. Glorify Thyself in us, that we may glorify Thee in the world. *Amen.*

Thursday Evening.

AGAIN, O God, at the close of another day we wait upon Thee. All the day long hast Thou waited upon us. We have been Thy constant care.

Thou hast sustained our powers of body and mind. We have lived from Thee moment by moment. And now we are weary, and our daily strength is worn out with the labours of the day, we welcome the night and the darkness and the prospect of rest in sleep. For all the mercies of the day, and all the blessings of the light we bless Thee, and give Thee heartfelt thanks.

In taking leave of the day we repent of all our folly, sinfulness, and sin; we forsake everything in the pursuit of which we have forsaken Thee; we condemn all for which we have been condemned of Thee; we neither justify nor excuse ourselves, but lie under Thy judgments, confessing that Thou art just and true in all Thy ways.

We seek at Thy hand pardon, restoration, and healing. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Speak peace to us; give us the blessedness of those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered, unto whom iniquity is not imputed, and in whose spirits there is no guile; restore to us the joy of Thy salvation; uphold us with Thy free Spirit.

As members of the same household and of one family we desire to be restored to each other in peace and love ere we separate for the night. Remove all estrangements that may have arisen; let no differences become separations; let no lukewarmness perpetuate itself; but in good will, brotherly kindness,

and charity, confessing one to another our many infirmities and our many sins, we desire to exercise towards each other that forgiveness which is a forgetfulness, and in the love of our common Father bid each other good-night, and part in peace.

We implore Thy blessing upon all our kindred, upon those from whom we have removed, and upon those who have removed from us. Let the blessing promised to the fathers for their children's children never cease towards them. And let the fathers be refreshed by the blessings of their children.

During the night be Thou light about us; watch over us while we sleep. Thy blessings abound towards us by day; but more divinely Thy blessings abound to usward while we sleep by night. Without our care, without our aid, without our thought—in ways altogether Thine own, hidden and unknown to us, Thou renewest and refreshest us, that by the morning light we may again receive ourselves as renewed creatures from Thine hand. When we are nothing, and our self-life ceases, and we can be still, then Thou art everything to us; Thy spring is opened upon our root, and Thy dew lieth all night upon our branch, and our life becomes fresh in us, and our strength is renewed in our hand. O Lord, Thou art all things, and givest all things to Thy beloved in sleep. O God, within the curtain of Thy darkness, beneath Thy overshadowing, in the embrace of Thine arms, we lie down to lose ourselves in Thee. In the morning Thou wilt call us back to wakefulness in

ourselves. O Lord, how unsearchable Thou art, and Thy ways past finding out! With our last thoughts we worship and adore and magnify Thy name. Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Thy dear Son. *Amen.*

Friday Morning.

O GOD, Thou art our God; early would we seek Thee! We bow before Thee this morning with humble reverence and awe. Thou art the Father of lights. Thou dwellest in light. With Thee is no darkness at all.

As the light of another day dawns upon us, we pray Thee to enlighten us spiritually. By nature we are dark, ignorant, sinful. Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord. What we know not, teach us; take away sin; dissipate the mists of pride, prejudice, passion, and let us be so illuminated by Thy Holy Spirit that our whole nature may be full of light, having no part dark.

We ask Thee to grant us to-day the light of Thy countenance. As the natural sun again gladdens the earth, do Thou make us glad by the shining of Thy face. In Thy favour is life. May we live to-day happy in Thee. Reconciled to Thee through Jesus Christ, may we realize our blessed condition, and feel that Thou art well pleased with us for His righteousness' sake. Give us grace to walk as children of light. Thou wouldst have us reflect Thine image, be

followers of God, perfect as Thou art perfect. In all the engagements of the day, Lord, help us to be lights in the world, to diffuse a holy and happy influence, striving to diminish the world's darkness, in however small a degree, and to make all with whom we associate better for our presence.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to send out Thy light and Thy truth. Surrounded by light ourselves, we would think of those who are in darkness. Bless, we pray Thee, our beloved country. In its peace and prosperity we have all a deep personal interest. We thank Thee for its laws, its liberties, its sovereign, the amount of truth and righteousness and moral worth, of which Thou hast made it the depository. Yet is there in it much sin and sorrow; Lord, enlighten our land. Give wisdom to our rulers, piety to our people, purity to our literature, power to the Christian ministry, prosperity to our commerce, success to all benevolent workers and to its great religious institutions.

We beseech Thee to enlighten the world: its dark places full of cruelty do Thou penetrate with gospel truth. Give patience, power, and encouragement to all faithful missionaries. Scatter idolatry, destroy error, and hasten the time when He shall be everywhere known and loved who said, I am the Light of the world.

We pray for ourselves. As individuals and as a family make us blessings to one another and to many around. Shepherd of Israel, give ear as we commend

to Thee the lambs of the fold; gather them in Thine arms, carry them in Thy bosom, and make us all to lie down in green pastures and beside the still waters, for the Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

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Friday Evening.

MOST merciful and gracious Father! at the close of another day we desire to bow before Thee with reverence, humility, and thankfulness. We come in the name of Jesus Christ, our great Advocate and Mediator, the Way, the Truth, the Life; and for His sake implore Thine evening benediction.

We gratefully acknowledge Thy many mercies. Thou hast spared our lives, while many have died; hast continued to us our comforts, while many have been in distress; Thou hast given us strength for duty, protection from danger, succour in temptation; and we bow at Thy footstool, as the recipients of unnumbered blessings. Receive, we beseech Thee, our grateful thanksgiving. May we have a due sense of Thy mercy; and, recollecting how different our position might have been to-night, may our hearts swell with holy gratitude, and our united song of praise be earnest and sincere. We would be humbled before Thee for our many sins. We mourn that each day we have to mingle confession with praise. We thank Thee if we have been kept from open sin; but however blameless we may have appeared to men,

Thou hast seen our hearts. O Lord, we confess that much evil dwells within us: selfishness, pride, covetousness, and love of the world, too much exclude thoughts of Thyself and of heavenly things. We live too often as though we were to live here always; we become absorbed in worldly things; we forget spiritual realities, and live sometimes as though there were no God, no hereafter, no spiritual world. We come to-night to ask for pardon. Blot out our sins, we beseech Thee. For the sake of Jesus, the perfect Saviour, forgive our secret faults, and by the power of Thy Holy Spirit cleanse us from them; make us more holy, more spiritually minded, and help us to live more as He lived, our great and blessed Example.

We commit ourselves and all dear to us to Thy watchful care through this night. The shadows of the evening gather about us, but the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee: the night shineth as the day.

Wearied, we lie down to sleep, but Thou art never weary, never slumberest nor sleepest. Mercifully protect us from peril; and, if it please Thee, grant us refreshing repose. We commend to Thee all to whom this night will bring no rest. The homeless, the wanderers, the afflicted, the dying, the bereaved, do Thou mercifully bless; and let Thine overshadowing wing convey to all the shelter and help they need.

Father of mercies, hear our evening prayer. Bless each of us according to our special need; and let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Saturday Morning.

MOST merciful and blessed God. We bow before Thee in humble worship, and desire to do so reverently, spiritually, sincerely. Our souls adore Thy majesty. We cannot fully comprehend Thee, but we know, for Thou hast told us, Thou art infinitely great and good. Thou hast made heaven and earth by Thy great power, and there is nothing too hard for Thee. Thou showest lovingkindness unto thousands. Thou art great in counsel, mighty in work, and Thine eyes are open upon all the ways of man.

We come this morning, in the name of Jesus, our elder Brother, to seek Thy blessing. How much this can convey of light, strength, peace, joy, we have never yet fully known: we pray that we may do so now; for it is Thy favour which makes heaven what it is; the absence of it makes hell what it is. O Lord, bless us! Thou knowest our condition and our needs, and Thou canst give blessings to us in the way most suited to our wants. If any of us are not Thy children by faith in Christ Jesus, Lord, by Thy Spirit, make us such. If we are, improve us daily, by making us more like Thyself. We would be wholly Thine, would follow Thee fully, would cleave unto Thee with full purpose of heart. Help our weakness, and confirm the desire of our souls.

We are going again into the world. Thou hast placed us in it, and dost intend it as our state of

probation and discipline. Help us to-day to use it aright. Give us grace, that by the maintenance of a right spirit we may consecrate duty, sanctify pleasure, overcome all solicitation to evil, and elevate and hallow our whole life upon earth.

May we strive to be useful, not only by a consistent example, but by speaking a word in season as we have opportunity; and, by any means Thy providence presents, do Thou enable us to do good, and to co-operate in Thy designs of mercy towards our fellow-men.

Bless us as a family. In all the relations we sustain to each other may we remember the higher relation we sustain to Thee. Preserve us from whatever would mar our peace or disturb our unity. Help us to seek each other's happiness, and ever to forbear one another in love.

Prepare us for all Thy will. We may not expect immunity from trial. In some form Thou dost call us daily to bear it. May we do so meekly, submissively; and whatever afflictions may await us in the future, prepare us for them by giving us greater spiritual strength and more faith in Thee.

We thank Thee for the mercies of the night. We seek Thy smile this morning. We commend each other to Thy love through the day, and beseech Thee to hear and bless us for Thy dear Son's sake. *Amen.*

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Saturday Evening.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven! At the close of another week we Thy children desire to unite in offering to Thee our tributes of praise and thanksgiving. We bow before Thee in humble adoration. Thou art from everlasting. Thou inhabitest eternity. All the changes of our time and lives make no alteration in Thee. Thou art the same, and Thy years have no end.

Receive, we beseech Thee, the homage of our spirits to-night—the offering of our entire being to Thyself, and help us more and more to love Thee with all our hearts.

We thank Thee for the blessing of the week now closing. Life, time, reason, domestic and social happiness, protection from danger, deliverance from the power of the wicked one, and all the daily supplies of temporal and spiritual mercies have come to us from Thee. Thou hast opened Thine hand and satisfied our desires—yea, hast abundantly exceeded all we could have asked or thought. O Lord, help us to praise Thee! Preserve us from insensibility, from hardness of heart, from receiving Thy mercies as necessary or common things. In each one we would see the shadow of Thine hand; on each would behold Thine image and superscription; while we would remember that all come to us through Christ, and for the sake of His wonderful life and death.

We pray Thee to forgive the sins of the week. As we speak to Thee, the Holy One, our hearts condemn us for many thoughts, feelings, words, acts, which have been unholy, and therefore displeasing to Thee. Enter not into judgment with Thy servants, O Lord. We present ourselves before Thee in the name of Jesus. We cling to His Cross; afresh we come to the Fountain opened; by renewed faith we appropriate to ourselves the perfect righteousness of Thy Son, and we pray that for His sake our consciences may be cleansed, calmed, and purified, and our sins be all forgiven.

Prepare us now for the rest and service of the Sabbath. Even on this its threshold, in this its outer court, we would feel its sacred influence. We bless Thee for Thy holy day. After the night's rest may it rise upon us calmly and brightly, whispering to us of Thy love and inviting us to Thy worship. Thus as our weeks pass, and Sabbaths come and go, may we, and all we love, be preparing for higher service, and nobler worship in the world of light and bliss. We thank Thee that there remaineth a rest for the people of God. By faith we would now enter into it, and by hope anticipate its future and perfect enjoyment. Teach and help us to live worthy of it, and at last permit us to form an unbroken circle in heaven, for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

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The Lord's Prayer.

OUR FATHER which art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayers for Special Domestic Occasions.

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Prayer on the Birth of a Child.

LIFE, O Lord, is from Thee, and the consecration of life is from Thee. May the new life committed to our care and love as a family be nurtured faithfully for Thee, and be ever in Thy gracious keeping. If the unconsciousness of infancy shall be followed by the intelligence of riper years, may that intelligence be taught of Thee, so that the heart may be a heart to serve Thee in this world, and to find its portion in Thee in the world to come. For Thy goodness and mercifulness in this event we thank Thee, and beseech Thee to bow Thine ear to this our earnest supplication, for the Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

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Prayer for a Sick Child.

WE mourn, O Lord, over the sin which exposes even infancy and childhood to suffering. But Thou hast sent Thy Son into the world to deliver Thy creatures from sin and from its penalties. Hear

us, heavenly Father, for His dear sake, as we pray Thee to look mercifully on the suffering one so dear to us. May it please Thee, gracious God, to stay the action of disease, to spare the tender frame, and to continue the life which Thou hast made it to be our nature to love. Pity the sufferer, O Lord, and pity our aching hearts, we beseech Thee, for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving for the Restoration of a Sick Child.

IN the gratitude of our hearts, O Lord, we would thank Thee, in that Thou hast rebuked disease, and spared the life which might have been taken from us. We remember, heavenly Father, that the sparrow is not beyond Thy care, much less is man, or the affairs of man; and we accept this family mercy as truly from Thy hand. Grateful, O Lord, would we feel. More than ever, O Lord, we would be Thine. And grant, we beseech Thee, that the spared life may be a life to Thy praise for ever. May Thine ear be open to us as we thus speak to Thee, for the Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

Prayer on behalf of Children generally.

HEAVENLY FATHER, we bless Thee for the love of childhood as seen in Jesus Christ.

Look, we beseech Thee, upon the children of this family, and nurture them for Thyself by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit. May they grow up to call Thee blessed. Guard them, we pray Thee, against the snares to which youth is ever exposed. So order their path for them that they may continually serve Thee. Be with them in all the unforeseen experiences of life, that aided by Thee in all their times of need, their home and heritage at last may be with the Redeemer. This, O Lord, we earnestly beseech from Thee, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Prayer for a Sick Member of a Family.

HOLY LORD GOD, darkness and clouds are often round about Thee. Often dost Thou teach us that Thy thoughts are not our thoughts, nor Thy ways our ways. It has been Thy will, O Lord, that sickness should invade our dwelling, and that we should be admonished as to the uncertainty of health and the uncertainty of life. May it please Thee, O Lord, to hear us as we pray Thee to be merciful to the sufferer under this roof. May we all learn from this affliction the lessons it is designed to teach; and on its removal may we be constrained to yield ourselves with a new devotion to Thy service. May we have grace to humble ourselves under Thy mighty hand, and to confide in Thee at all times. We offer

our supplication, O Thou Most High, in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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Thanksgiving for the Restoration of a Member of a Family from Sickness.

LORD, we would return to Thee to give thanks for the goodness and mercy which Thou hast caused to pass before us as a family. The sickness that might have been unto death Thou hast stayed. For this we bless Thee, and for the measure of restored health and strength. If our hearts have wandered from Thee, may this affliction be the means of bringing them back more than ever to Thy love and service. In times of pain and grief Thou dost often open the ear to understanding, and the heart to impression. From what we have suffered, personally or relatively, may there be such fruit. May the time of unrest and anxiety through which we have passed, make us to be more sensible of Thy goodness in granting us so much of rest, and of comparative quietude, in this sinful world. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us, bless His holy name, who redeemeth our lives from destruction, and crowneth us with lovingkindness and tender mercy. We beseech Thee, O Lord, to accept this our thank-offering, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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Prayer on the Return of a Birthday.

TO another return of this day, O Lord, hast Thou brought us. The past year has been and cannot be again. But it has left its legacy behind—a heavy legacy of infirmities and sins—to crowd our memory, and to sadden our heart. Good and long-suffering, O Lord, hast Thou been towards us. May the remembrance of Thy pity and patience humble us, and fill us with contrition. Forbid, we beseech Thee, that the experiences through which we have passed should be lost upon us. Time should teach us more knowledge of ourselves. Grant, O Lord, that such may be its influence. It should make us more circumspect, more sensible of our weakness, and more disposed to confide gratefully and affectionately in Thy promised help.

Entering upon another year, may it be given us to do so with a more settled purpose to live to Thee. May greater power be given us to look beyond the seen and the temporal, and to live by faith amidst the unseen and eternal. May our vision of the heavenly life be clearer. May our sympathy with it be stronger. May we know more of what it is to be free from the fear of death. So may our souls become more free to suffer, or to do, Thy will in all things.

With lowliness of heart, with prostration of spirit before Thee, we pray Thee, O Lord, to hear us as

we thus plead with Thee, for the Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

Prayer on the Morning of a Wedding.

O THOU who art the God of the families of the whole earth, and who dost especially regard those who call upon Thy name, behold us graciously on this eventful day. All hearts are in Thy keeping, and their affections are under Thy control. Love, true pure and beautiful, is a gift from Thee. Thou dost inspire it in human souls: when the hearts of Thy creatures are woven together in bonds of virtuous attachment, it is by the touch and the benediction of Thy holy hand. Thou didst institute matrimony in paradise, saying, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh: and we praise Thy name, that the blessed institution has survived the fall of man, and the wreck of his original innocence.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the circumstances and prospects of this happy morning, for the mutual affection which Thou hast kindled in the bosoms of those who in Thy house are soon to be made one; for the meetness of their union; for the brightness of their hopes; and for the joy which fills them both. Do Thou sanction and bless their marriage. May He who was present at Cana of Galilee, and who turned the water into wine, be present at their nuptials, and

crown with His favour our approaching festivities, and enhance these temporal mercies by the crowning gift of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, purify and hallow, guide and keep Thy servants this day, and throughout all the future years of their wedded life ; that amidst its lights and shadows, its joys and sorrows, its duties and cares, they may evermore have affiance in Thee.

After safely passing through the pilgrimage of this world, may they attain to everlasting felicity in Thine immediate presence amidst the holy angels, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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Before a Summer Tour.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious God, Thou art the Creator of the world, and of all which it contains. Thou didst say in the beginning, Let there be light, and there was light. Thou hast made the evening and the morning, the firmament, the dry land, and the gathering together of the waters into the sea. At Thy command the earth brings forth grass, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit. Thou hast kindled the lights of heaven, and given them for signs and seasons, for days and years. All living things are the productions of Thy power, and by a special act of creation, which Thou hast Thyself revealed, Thou didst make man in Thine own image. The races and families of the earth have all been brought into

existence by Thee, and Thou hast fixed the bounds of their habitation.

We thank and bless Thee for the beautiful earth; for all its varied scenery and productions; for mountains and valleys; for fields and flowers and fruits. Thou hast cast our lot in a day when the means of communication between one place and another are so easy and convenient: and we are enabled to traverse our island and to cross the sea with a speed and facility such as our fathers knew not. All discoveries and inventions are of Thee. Thou givest to man the faculties of genius and skill, the power of discovery, and the talent for applying scientific knowledge. May we never be blind to the operations of the Divine hand, never be insensible to the inspirations of Divine wisdom. We thank Thee, heavenly Father, for the ability Thou givest us to enjoy so much of which many of our fellow-men are deprived. Thou hast highly favoured us, and we desire fervently to praise Thee. Fill us with love to Thee to-day amidst all our innocent pleasures. May we see God in all things, and all things in God.

Watch over us by the way. Guard us from danger. We acknowledge Thy providence everywhere at all times, and its relation to what may appear insignificant circumstances. Shield us from harm. Bring us to our destination in peace. Give Thine angels charge concerning us.

Control our thoughts, sanctify our tempers and dispositions, preserve us from being vexed and worried

by trifling incidents which may arise in our journey. Wherever we are, may we remember that Thou God seest us, and that we profess to call ourselves by Thy name.

Bless those whom we leave behind, preserve them in safety and comfort. Preserve us from foolishly supposing that we are secure anywhere without Thee, or insecure wherever Thy favour encompasses us as with a shield.

May we be brought back, in due time, under Thy protection and blessing, to bless Thy name and acknowledge Thy gracious guardianship of us in this our beloved home.

Lord, hear and answer our prayers, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Prayer on the Death of a Member of the Family.

HOLY LORD GOD Almighty, by man sin has come into this world, and death by sin. All, O Lord, have sinned, and we confess the sentence just that all should die. We shrink in dismay as we think of what commonly precedes death, and of what follows when the body is left to become its native dust again.

But we adore Thee, O God, that light has been made to dawn upon us from beyond the grave. We adore Thee, that as believers in Jesus Christ, we can

see through the valley and shadow of death into the better land, where there is no death, where there are no graves, where the people sin no more, and suffer no more. Yes ; O Father, we adore Thee that while we weep under bereavement, we can rejoice in hope, as we hear the voice which says :—" I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

But forbid, O Lord, that death should come thus near to us, and fail to teach us the lessons we should learn. May this painful event give us a more just impression as to the evil of sin. May it dispose us to a wiser thoughtfulness concerning eternal things. May it awaken in us a deeper sense of our obligation to the Blessed One who Himself died that He might conquer death for us. Forgive, O Lord. Comfort, O Lord. May this visitation of death minister to a higher life in our souls. We look to Thee, merciful Father, through the Man of sorrows, through Him who wept at the grave of Lazarus, who groaned in spirit there. For His sake, good Lord, hear, and heal, and bless. *Amen.*

Prayers for Special Seasons.

For New Year's-day.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the order of time is from Thee. The sun ruling the day, and the moon and the stars governing through the hours of the night, obey Thy will. The winter and the summer come and go at Thy bidding. The day-spring which has thus opened upon us to usher in another year, is from Thy hand. With the closing of the last day in a year of time, our thoughts go backwards, questioning the past. With the opening of the first day in a year to come, we look forward to the future—a future wholly void to us, except as it may be peopled with creations by our hopes or fears.

To Thee, O Thou Omniscient, the future is not a void. It is wholly known. We adore Thee that, certain as this may be, Thy word abounds in assurances that men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Hear us, O Lord, as we beseech Thee to prepare us for all that may be awaiting us. May no burden come upon us that we shall not be able to bear. May no temptation assail us that we shall not be able to resist. Hear us, good Lord, as we pray

Thee to prevent us by Thy goodness. Merciful Father, remember our weakness. We are but dust. May every trial that comes upon us be so attempered that we may be able to pass through it in the spirit proper to Thy children. In all our times of special need may Thy grace be sufficient for us. Saviour of our souls, Thou incarnation of love and pity, be ever with us, that we may walk in Thy light, may be healthy branches in the true Vine, and, if in the world we have tribulation, in Thee may we have peace. We pray, heavenly Father, that we may enter upon this new year with new resolves, resolves such as Christian hearts should cherish, and such as the Holy Spirit will approve and strengthen. Forbid, O Lord, that time should be drifting us nearer to eternity without witnessing our growing meetness for the better life. If spared through another year, may it be seen at its close that we have unlearnt much error and evil, and learnt much truth and goodness. Bow Thine ear, O Eternal Father, to the voice of our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Last Day of the Year.

GREAT GOD, Thou art from everlasting to everlasting. The heavens and the earth in comparison with Thee are but of yesterday. And when all visible things shall pass away as a scroll, and be

folded up as a vesture, Thou wilt be the same, and Thy years will not fail. Time is to us a constant revelation: to Thee it reveals nothing. To Thee all things are known from the beginning. Thou King eternal, immortal, and invisible, what Thou art we can never know unto perfection. High is Thy nature, we cannot attain unto it in our highest thought.

The last hours of another year have come. Another year has told its tale. Like all the years which have gone before, it has brought millions of our race into being; and it has carried millions away as with a flood. They are gone as a sleep and a dream.

Assist us, O Lord, to feel the responsibility—the solemnity of life. Forbid that this year should pass without our questioning it as to the report it has to make concerning us. Surely mercies have come with it for which we should be grateful; and follies and sins have come with it for which we should be humbled and penitent. If the days and months now past have brought us suffering, may it be seen that we have profited by it. But Thou hast been long-suffering, O Lord, and very gracious; and we pray that our souls, in the memory of Thy goodness, may become more than ever Thine in the exercise of every dutiful affection; and may our remaining days be marked by the signs of a growing spiritual life. Great God, our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, hear us in this our earnest supplication, for the Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

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Good Friday.

RIGHTEOUS FATHER, we desire to gather round the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ this day. We would remember how He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; how He was despised and rejected of men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; how He was smitten of Thee and afflicted; how He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows; how He expiated our offences, and purged us from our sins in His own blood.

O Lord, we know that it is by His death we live; that by His sacrifice He secures our acceptance with Thee; and that, having endured the sharpness of death, He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. We would lift up our eyes to the heavenly temple, and would, by faith, behold the Lamb in the midst of the throne—the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world—the Lamb which taketh away the sins of the world.

May we obtain forgiveness through His blood. May we be justified through faith in Him. May we know what it is to be in Christ Jesus, to be free from condemnation, to have peace with God, to receive the reconciliation, and to rejoice that Christ is made unto us, wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Help us to imitate our Saviour's beautiful example, to submit patiently to suffering, and to take the cup which our Father gives us to drink, saying, Thy will

be done. Bestow upon us, O Lord, the spirit of forgiveness, that we may pray for our enemies, for those who despitefully use us and persecute us. As Jesus Christ, amidst the agonies of the cross, thought of His mother and commended her to His beloved disciple, may we be delivered from selfishness, even when oppressed by pain and sorrow, and tenderly care for and lovingly promote the welfare of those to whom we are related.

In hours of loneliness and desertion, when Providence gathers round us in clouds of thick darkness, may we muse on the mystery of His passion, who cried, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" When death comes, and the moment of dissolution explains to us the great secret of mortality, may faith triumph over fear, and may we be able to say with our dying Lord, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit."

We are guilty, lost, undone. We would join ourselves in spirit to the dying thief, who cried, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." To be remembered by Christ in life and death, we would fain make our supreme desire. Strengthen our feeble and wavering hearts, that we may ever cultivate this holy aspiration; and when we pass away from our earthly home and our present friends, from familiar scenes and all mortal things, may we hear the words of the omnipotent Saviour, our blessed King, "To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

May we all our days below bear our cross patiently,

and do our work cheerfully, and be ready to assist our brethren with assiduous kindness; that being followers of Christ's life, and partakers of Christ's death, we may share in the resurrection of the just.

Hear our prayers through Him who died for us, and ever liveth to make intercession for us. *Amen.*

Additional Petitions for Easter-Sunday.

ON this first day of the week, O Lord, we would approach the open sepulchre of Jesus Christ and rejoice that He is risen.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ which, according to His abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

We thank Thee for the revelation of Him as declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead. May we know Him and the power of His resurrection—its power as an evidence of His Divine mission; as a proof of the sufficiency and efficacy of His sacrifice; as a pledge of our resurrection at the last day; and as a spirit of life in our souls, so that through it we may rise with Christ, and seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God, and have our lives hid with Christ in God.

Give us, O Lord, to understand and experience those high and glorious things which are taught us in Thy holy word. *Amen.*

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Additional Petitions for Whit-Sunday.

O LORD, we praise Thy name for the fulfilment of Thy promise, made unto the fathers, that Thou wouldest pour forth Thy Spirit on all flesh. We Gentiles would joyfully remember how, when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, the cloven tongues of fire descended on the apostles, and men of all lands heard, in their own language, the wonderful works of God. Our language has been sanctified to this excellent use; and we have in English words been told of the death and resurrection of Christ, His ascension and enthronement, and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon His redeemed Church.

We praise Thee for this great blessing, and pray that He, who is the Illuminator, the Comforter, the Sanctifier, the Advocate, and the Indweller of all truly Christian men, may abide in us for our holiness, consolation and joy; that, doing Thy holy will here below, and fighting the battles of truth and righteousness in the Church militant, we may be prepared for the peace and the blessedness, and the glory of the Church triumphant. *Amen.*

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Christmas Day.

MOST holy, eternal and ever blessed God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we kneel down at Thy footstool on the morning of this blessed day.

We would join in the angels' song, Glory to God in the Highest, on earth peace, good will towards men. Thankfully would we listen to the wonderful tidings,—"Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

Help us, like the shepherds, to come by faith with haste to Bethlehem, to find Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in the manger; and then, may we return, when this day is over, to the pursuits of life, glorifying and praising God for all the things which we have seen and heard. Help us, like the wise men, to approach Christ, the Incarnate Word, with reverence and joy, and to pour out at His feet our richest and best, as they did their treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We praise Thee for the glorious mystery of His birth, who is the promised Seed of the woman, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed—who is the Shiloh to whom the gathering of the people shall be—who is Jacob's Star and Israel's Sceptre,—the Angel of the Covenant,—the Desire of nations,—the Child born, the Son given, Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince

of Peace. May we, amidst all the social intercourse and enjoyments of this day, remember Him devoutly; and consider how His incarnation has sanctified domestic life, and made the joys of father, mother, husband, wife, and child, holier than before. May He, the Bright and the Morning Star, shine over our home and our hearth. May that peace which He gives, and which passeth all understanding, mingle with the innocent pleasures of our home this day.

We would magnify Thee for this unspeakable gift; and we pray, that through the illumination of Thy Spirit, we may enter into the spiritual experience of this holy and blessed mystery. Overshadow us by Thy grace, that Christ may be formed in our hearts the hope of glory; that we may express His image in the whole of our lives by a strong faith, a true devotion, a pure zeal, and an excellent charity. As He was pleased to take upon Him our nature, so may we be born again, and be partakers of the Divine nature, that conforming to His image, following His example, and being filled with His spirit, we may grow in the knowledge and love of God; and being Thy sons by a holy adoption, may partake of the inheritance of Him, who is the firstborn of every creature.

We thank Thee for our peaceful home, for the gathering around us of those we love, for all sweet and pure emotions now flowing from our hearts. Thy Gospel is the gospel of love. Fill us with its richest influences; sanctify our intercourse; preserve us from sinning against Thee, and from doing anything incon-

sistent with the sanctity, honour, and dignity of the Christian life.

Lord, forgive us all our sins, hear our prayers for our relatives, our friends, our acquaintances, our neighbours, our countrymen, our queen, our fellow-creatures. Open the sympathies of our hearts, O Lord, that we may take them all into our affection and prayers. Bless them abundantly for the sake of the Holy Child Jesus. *Amen.*

Prayer on a Sunday when the Lord's Supper is to be Celebrated.

O LORD, we thank Thee for the ordinances of Thine house, and for the beautiful institution of the Lord's Supper. Help us to enter into its Divine purpose, and to understand its spiritual meaning. By it Thou dost teach us the communion to be enjoyed with Christ and with one another through Him.

We desire to be one with the Saviour. Feed us with the bread which came down from heaven. Pour the spirit of Christ's life into our souls. Strengthen our minds and hearts by the truth as it is in Jesus. Cleanse our consciences from guilt and sin by the blood of Jesus. May we eat and drink at Thy table, as Thy children, in fellowship with our elder Brother, who has prepared for us this feast of redemption. To us may no entertainment be so grateful, no com-

munion be so sweet, no pleasure be so congenial, as the Supper of the Lord, the intercourse with our glorified Redeemer through the breaking of bread, and the participation of the holy cup offered to us this day.

We desire, also, to be one with Christ's Church ; to be members of that mystical body, of which He is the Head, and which He fills with a life like His own. May we cherish the love which is enjoined by the apostle Paul, which suffereth long and is kind ; which envieth not ; which vaunteth not itself ; "is not puffed up ; doth not behave itself unseemly ; seeketh not her own ; is not easily provoked ; thinketh no evil ; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth ; beareth all things ; believeth all things ; hopeth all things ; endureth all things." Assist us, O Lord, to understand this inspired lesson, so closely connected with the fellowship of Christianity, in which we this day engage. May we be animated and guided by the example of our blessed Lord in our endeavours to cultivate this exalted charity. His love constrains us not to live to ourselves. Dispose us, we beseech Thee, to strive after a life of pure and noble self-sacrifice in His blessed service.

Bless our fellow-communicants. May they be refreshed by the spiritual manifestation of Christ to their souls ; and may they sit down with us together in the kingdom of God when time shall be no more. We supplicate these mercies through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Religious Festival.

O LORD GOD, our Heavenly Father, Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves. Our minds Thou hast fashioned, our sympathies Thou hast inspired, our power to associate particular thoughts with particular occasions comes from Thee, and Thou dost fill us with those social affections and those desires to meet and mingle with Thy people, which beat in our hearts so strongly to-day.

We thank Thee for the prospect of beholding beloved friends; of uniting with them in Thy house; of joining with them in the service of song; of hearing together the proclamation of Thy holy truth.

We can enter into the joys of Thy servants in days of old, when they said, "Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem."

Pour upon us the spirit of grace and supplication, of unity and love, of joy and peace, of faith and hope. Assist those who shall speak to us in Thy name, or address Thy mercy-seat on our behalf. May we be very devout. Preserve us from wandering thoughts, from earth-born desires, from all selfishness, all sectarianism.

Revive us this day, we beseech Thee, O Lord. Send us now prosperity. Oh, for the gentle, vital, invigorating breath of the Holy Spirit, to fill our souls, that we may not be dull and languid, or rash and heedless, or worldly under the cloak of religion, or

self-seekers, whilst professing to aim at the welfare of others.

We thank Thee for the gift of the Saviour, and for the mission of the Comforter, and for all the means of grace, and all the hopes of glory. Forgive us our sins, and bless us evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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